

# The Baptist Record

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## ACTS of Jackson accepts highest award at ceremony

ACTS of Jackson, Inc., the local affiliate for the American Christian Television System, was named as the Network's "Cable Affiliate of the Year" from a field of more than 200 local systems. This award, presented at the first Annual ACTS Awards Ceremony — an Academy Awards-type celebration, is the highest award presented to a local ACTS affiliate. The Jackson board was judged to be the best local affiliate in five categories: organization/management, cable/station relations, local origination programming, community service, and local promotion.

Local ACTS Board chairman, Joe H. Tuten, responded: "Well, it is always nice to be recognized, and we appreciate it. But we know that after the awards comes the work. That is the main thing — advancing the cause of Christ and holding up Christian lifestyles through this medium of television."

ACTS Manager, Steve Guidry, added: "Naturally, we are proud, but we are really looking toward the future. One of the things the network 'brass' is excited about is our local ad sales program. Our low rates (lower than any other television outlet here in Jackson) coupled with a high degree of advertiser satisfaction have spell-



Steve Guidry (center) receives the Cable Affiliate of the Year Award on behalf of ACTS of Jackson, Inc. from RTVC President Jimmy R. Allen (right) and actor David Soul, who emceed the program.

ed success, and we are glad that they recognize that."

Guidry will be featured as a guest on the June 9 edition of Life Today,

ACTS' talk show hosted by Jimmy Allen, the network president. Air times are 6 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. on Capitol Cablevision's Channel 14.

## Mississippi Mission names two division chairmen, Hattiesburg

Rodney Fairchild, partner and general manager of W. R. Fairchild Construction Company, Ltd., and Gordon H. White, president of the Hattiesburg division of First Mississippi National Bank, have been named division chairmen of the Hattiesburg area campaign of The Mississippi Mission.

The announcement was made by Harry E. Vickery, general chairman of the \$40,000,000 Baptist endowment campaign. The campaign will benefit William Carey College, Mississippi College, Blue Mountain College and The Baptist Children's Village.

Fairchild, who is chairman of the William Carey College board of development, is chairman of the leadership gifts division. The Hon. Bobby L. Chain, Sarah E. Gillespie, Duane K. McCallister, William K. Ray, Dumas Smith, and Richard S. Thomson are serving as vice chairman.

White is major gifts division chairman. He is building an organization

of 30 volunteers.

Fairchild has served as Heart Fund chairman and in campaigns for the Boy Scouts, the Salvation Army, and William Carey College.

Upon accepting the position, Fairchild said, "Just as private colleges nationwide have played a very important part throughout the history of the United States in developing leadership, William Carey College and the other institutions have had the same role in the State of Mississippi. I have supported William Carey College with my time and money during my entire business career. I am very pleased to say I will continue to do so."

White serves as chairman of the board of trustees of the Mississippi 4H Foundation and as president of the Hattiesburg Industrial Park Commission. He is a member of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. In addition, he has provided leadership to the Red Cross, Pine Burr Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, Hat-

tiesburg Chamber of Commerce, Forrest-Lamar United Way, Hattiesburg Rotary Club, and to local and statewide economic development groups. He has held leadership positions in past campaigns for William Carey College.

White said, "Supporting the endowment efforts of William Carey College and the other fine Mississippi Baptist institutions is a labor of love for me. These institutions are invaluable assets by helping our young people to achieve their maximum potential."

The Mississippi Mission was approved by the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1984 following two years of study by a special task force. The task force discovered that endowment income at the four Baptist institutions had steadily declined since 1940. Then it provided 23 percent of operating expenses. Today, it provides only four percent.

The campaign will provide for four (Continued on page 6)

## HMB appoints missionary to work with diplomats

ATLANTA (BP) — Ron Meron of Huntsville, Ala., has been named as minister among international diplomats at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's ministry at United Nations in New York, effective June 1.

Meron is currently a language missionary with the Madison Baptist Association in Huntsville.

He will fill a vacancy left by the retirement and death of Elias Golonka, pioneer in the United Nations Ministry sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Born in Israel of German parentage, Meron is fluent in four languages. He and his wife, Amy, a native of Singapore, are concert pianists.

Meron is a graduate of Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif.

Meron will join Theodore Mall in coordinating Southern Baptist witness, Bible distribution, and ministry among diplomats at the United Nations.

The United Nations ministry is a companion to the HMB's ministry among international diplomats in Washington, led by Mario Acacia.

## Israel's highest court asks Baptists to move

By Marty Croll

JERUSALEM (BP) — Israel's highest court April 22 asked a Baptist church to leave a heavily Jewish area before it replaces the building destroyed by arson more than three years ago.

The High Court's three judges were reviewing a case filed by Narkis Street Baptist Church to reverse a denial of its building permit.

Pat Hoaldrige, acting chairman of Southern Baptist representatives in Israel, said he believed the court was trying to prevent further raising of religious and political feelings concerning the church.

"We are reading into this that this was a matter the court did not want to judge on because (the judges felt) it would probably raise tensions already in the country about religious questions," said Hoaldrige. "It indicates some of the religious-political tensions that are in the country at this time."

The international English-language congregation of about 350 now meets under a tent-like structure of temporary roofing and tarpaulin beside the chapel ruins in western Jerusalem. The lot sits in the midst of a Jewish community, where until recently the congregation enjoyed good relationships with all of its neighbors. Many members are able to walk to worship.

In their statement, the judges said they would not rule on the case for two months. They said this would give the church and Baptist convention of

Israel time to consider their recommendation to trade the property for a site that had been proposed earlier by the city and the Israel Land Authority. Lawyers for the church, who had felt positive about winning the case when it was filed, are now urging the congregation to move — on the condition the building permit at a new site will be issued as requested, Hoaldrige said.

The convention planned to discuss the court's recommendation during a

*"It indicates some of the religious-political tensions . . ."*

meeting in mid-May. Hoaldrige said he is uncertain what the church will do.

"You have to understand the climate in the country at this time," Hoaldrige said. "The rise of religious feelings regarding what the people would call missionary activity, and the increase of that, is playing a part in this case."

No charges were filed in the suspected arson of October 1982. At issue now are the church's plans to replace the burned chapel with a \$1 million facility encompassing a 400-seat auditorium, several Sunday school rooms and office space. Narkis Street church was founded nearly 60 years ago.

Marty Croll writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

## State mission offering zooms beyond goal

Two mission offering goals are going great guns this year.

The state mission offering, which funds special projects primarily not funded in any other way — such as helping new churches purchase property on which to build — has a goal of \$481,000. The goal calendar runs to Aug. 31. However, already at the end of April, the offering has reached \$502,883.94.

And the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions, which runs, to May 31, has tallied \$4,002,475.91. According to Fran Pickett of the Woman's Missionary Union office which receives the gifts, "this is the most ever given by Mississippi Baptists for the foreign mission offering." Miss Pickett explained that with another month to go in the offering, another \$20,000 could be expected.



# Church's good deed gives Elena victims "even walls"

By Tim Nicholas

"We enjoy all the extra things we have such as windows, and carpets, even walls," wrote the 5th grader to Pascagoula's Calvary Church Pastor George Berger.

The boy was being perfectly serious. After his school, Beach Elementary, was blown down last September by Hurricane Elena, he and his classmates suffered class in an auditorium — Window-less, carpet-less, and wall-less.

Along came the deacons of Calvary who met to discuss their church's own

substantial losses — amounting to about \$330,000. One said, "It's a shame when something happens to a church they run to a school — why don't we make the offer for the schools to use our facilities?" The vote was unanimous.

The Beach students moved into the church after Christmas break. Officials had wanted the church to complete its own repairs first. Another damaged school was absorbed into the school system, as were a few of Beach's classes. But most of the 110

pupils are meeting in the church facilities, where the teachers lock their own doors at night. Lunch is at a school adjacent to the church.

The only expense to the school is whatever extra the church has to pay for utilities, currently about \$100 per month. Utilities at the school had been \$1,000 per month.

The local Catholic priest told Berger the offer was "a terrific witness to the community."

Berger says churches shouldn't just have their hands out for help but also put their "hand out to help."



Mrs. Patti Hanafourde teaches her 6th grade class which is meeting at Calvary Church, Pascagoula, since Christmas.

## Missionary to Malaysia takes enlistment work

RICHMOND, Va. — A former Southern Baptist missionary to Malaysia has joined the Foreign Mission Board's missionary enlistment department as a consultant.

Mike Stroope, 34, will be responsible for states east of the Mississippi River, including Louisiana.

Stroope will be corresponding with missionary candidates and directing the nurture ministry. He will be

available to speak at pastor's conferences, state evangelism conferences, state conventions and other meetings where pastors will be present.

"Our primary target is general evangelists," Morgan said. "Over half of (his) efforts will be to make personal contacts with qualified, trained pastors who are interested."

## Seminary commencement will be held at Mt. Nebo

The 43rd commencement exercises for Mississippi Baptist Seminary will be held at Mount Nebo Baptist Church in Jackson, May 24 at 10 a.m.

S. Leon Whitney, pastor of New Prospect Baptist Church, Detroit, Mich., will be commencement speaker.

The seminary, which is jointly operated by National and Southern Baptist trustees, will award certificates, diplomas, and degrees in the following areas: one English diploma, 18 certificates in Christian education,

23 certificates in biblical studies, eight bachelor's degrees in religious education, nine bachelor's degrees in theology, two master's degrees in theological studies, and four doctor of ministry degrees.

Those receiving the doctor of ministry degrees are Walter A. DuVall, Lewis Leon Lassiter, Lee V. Powell, and James E. Wells, all of Jackson.

Richard A. Brogan is president of Mississippi Baptist Seminary.



Timothy and Karen Welford

## HMB appoints church planters

The SBC Home Mission Board commissioned Timothy and Karen Welford to serve in Lee County, where they are church planter apprentices, a two-year assignment for recent seminary graduates who work under an experienced supervisor in starting new churches.

## Missionaries, seminary approved by Canadians

VICTORIA, B.C. (BP) — In what leaders called the "most far-reaching decision in the recent history of missionaries," the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists gave final approval to channels through which Canadians called to foreign missions can be appointed to overseas service.

The recommendation was made possible by cooperation between the Canadian churches and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The proposal calls for the Canadian executive board to do the initial screening of missions candidates, as well as the formal commissioning of those recommended by the Foreign Mission Board office of human resources after the usual personnel procedures have been completed.

Canadian missionaries appointed for service in fields where a Foreign Mission Board mission exists, will be assigned to that mission. In other situations, Canadian work will be fully administered by the Canadian executive board "while seeking to maintain mutual and responsible cooperative spirit with the ap-

propriate FMB area director."

Salary, cost-of-living allowance, furlough transportation while in Canada and retirement of Canadian career and associate missionaries will be paid by the Canadian convention on a scale comparable to Foreign Mission Board scales. Other costs, such as on-the-field expense directly related to assignments, will be covered by the board.

With a spirit of history in the making, the new convention also adopted a statement of faith and practice for its graduate school of theology and formally approved Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary as the name of the new school to be opened for classwork in September, 1987.

Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary is to be located on a 149-acre tract west of Calgary, Alberta, purchased late last year with funds contributed by Southern Baptists through the Foreign Mission Board. Development funds for the new campus are expected to be contributed by Southern Baptists in both Canada and the United States.

# Hunger crisis threatens Haitian countryside

By Erich Bridges

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP) — Hunger in Haiti's countryside could reach a crisis stage if relief aid, including food sent by Southern Baptists, doesn't reach isolated areas soon.

Southern Baptist missionary Jack Hancox was waiting at the end of April for a shipment of food paid for with Southern Baptist hunger funds. But he said he wasn't quite sure how he would distribute it when it arrived. Many roads to the countryside have been washed out by recent heavy rains; others are periodically blocked by protest demonstrations and burning tires as the nation struggles for stability.

Hunger is nothing new in Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. But it could become more worse if normal commerce

doesn't resume soon.

The worst threat hangs over isolated rural areas, where the rains and food distribution problems have compounded widespread economic disruption. Hancox, a veteran missionary who works with Haitian Baptists in a variety of social ministries, reported "two or three areas where there is extreme hunger. But I have not heard about anyone starving to death." None of the international relief agencies in the country has sounded a famine alarm yet, he said.

However, the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization has declared Haiti is in a "state of extreme need" and issued a call for international humanitarian aid. In April the U.S. government pledged an additional \$10 million for emergency food and urged other governments and

relief agencies to respond to Haiti's need for immediate help and long-term development.

Looting still threatens relief efforts. Church World Service lost two relief trucks to hijackers recently, Hancox reported, and machete-wielding mobs have assaulted that agency's food warehouse three times. Baptist warehouses were looted repeatedly during the height of the unrest leading to the downfall of "president for life" Jean-Claude Duvalier.

"I'm a little nervous about it because I don't want to keep (the new food shipment) out in my warehouse and have everybody find out about it," said the missionary. "But we need it because of the terrible hunger up in the mountains. So that's a chance you've got to take." He said he would seek police protection for Baptist food

distribution efforts.

Hancox and his wife, Doris, added that other Baptist social ministries, such as well-drilling, are continuing relatively normally. The missionaries are moving about freely in Port-au-Prince, though they're avoiding crowds.

One volunteer medical team from the United States recently canceled its visit to Haiti because of transportation problems in the countryside and the current tension. But Hancox said several other Southern Baptist volunteer teams are still scheduled for work in Haiti this summer.

A military-civilian council is in charge of the government on an interim basis until new elections are held and a new constitution drafted. But violence, strikes and economic disruption have continued.

"The sad thing is that many of the businesses that really would like to raise salaries have lost so much business since November that they're laying people off," Hancox said of the situation in the capital. "And if they (the people) don't calm down and let people who have jobs work, let the factories that are still in business get out their orders, we're really going to be in a mess."

Erich Bridges writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

## Correction

In a story on the group going to Burkina Faso for volunteer work in the Baptist Record issue of May 8, John Bagwell's name was misspelled, and his hometown of Southaven was erroneously listed as Senatobia.



# IRS sets procedure for 'integrated auxiliaries'

By Kathy Palen

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Internal Revenue Service has announced a new revenue procedure that will exempt certain church-affiliated organizations — or "integrated auxiliaries" — from filing annual financial information returns.

The revenue procedure establishes an additional class of organizations — affiliated with a church, convention, or association of churches and exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code — that is not required to file Form 990, "Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax."

Under the procedure (Rev. Proc. 86-23), the IRS will use a two-pronged mechanical test to determine whether an organization fits within the new class. An organization will be exempt from filing unless it both offers goods or services for sale to the general public other than on an incidental

basis and receives more than 50 percent of its support from those sales and/or government support.

The new procedure will supplement a current regulation that requires a church-affiliated organization to pass a three-part test to be considered an integrated auxiliary and thus exempt from filing Form 990. That test requires an organization be tax exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code; be affiliated with a church, convention, or association of churches; and have a principal activity that exclusively is religious.

"It is important to remember that this revenue procedure creates an additional class of organizations that are exempt from filing Form 990," said Oliver S. Thomas, general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Kathy Palen writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.

## Yazoo City will premiere new Jerry Clower film

A new film based on the life of Grand Ole Opry star Jerry Clower is scheduled for showing in the Yazoo City area. First Baptist Church, Grand Avenue at Fourth Street, where Clower is a deacon, will host the premiere showing on Friday, May 23, 7:30 p.m., in the church sanctuary.



Life Productions of Atlanta has only recently completed production of the new 45-minute film which is entitled, "AIN'T GOD GOOD!"

Jerry now adds "movie star" to his

list of credits, in addition to country humorist, recording artist, Grand Ole Opry star, radio personality, author, and active Southern Baptist layman. The story line of the movie depicts his life story from Sept. 28, 1926, when he "first saw the light of day" in Amite County, to the present.

The "present" finds Jerry spending more than 200 days a year touring the country and telling tales of growing up in the South and experiencing life with Brother Sonny and his "friend" Marcel Ledbetter.

Primary markets for the film will be churches, prisons, military bases, schools, colleges, civic organizations, and other places where people's lives will be touched for the Lord.

## Brotherhood trustees approve budget

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission approved a 1986-87 operating budget of \$3,285,188 during their April 25-26 meeting.

Income for funding the budget includes a projected amount of \$924,000 from the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program and \$2,097,578 from sales of materials.

The program services division of work at the Brotherhood Commission will receive \$1,398,798 of the budget to develop and implement the agency's plan to help churches involve men and boys in missions. Its will take \$666,100 to fund administrative services; \$610,410 for business services and \$583,880 for support services.

More than 500 men and boys already have registered for the national Royal Ambassador Congress in Memphis, Aug. 4-6, 1986 with more than 2,500 expected to attend.



## Candyman can (with church help)

Mississippi Missionary Stanley Stamps buys gum in San Pedro Sula, Honduras from street vendor, Samuel Duron, who once owned a transport truck. He had a stroke and lost his truck and his business during his illness. Members of Bethany Baptist Church witnessed to the man. He made a profession of faith and the church obtained a social ministries loan from the national Baptist convention to build him a cart from which to sell candies. "Little by little his health is being restored," says Stamps, "and even though he doesn't have material things he is very happy." The man is paying off the loan dollar by dollar while he resides in the Bethany Church in a classroom. (Tim Nicholas photo)

## 200,000 Americans protest Greek sentencing of missionary

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (EP) — Congressional representatives delivered more than 200,000 letters and petitions to the Greek embassy on April 23, protesting the three-and-a-half year sentence of American missionary Don Stephens. Stephens and two other religious workers have been found guilty of "proselytizing" for giving a Greek teenager a Bible; an appeal is pending.

The three are free pending their appeal. Stephens, who directs Mercy Ships, a California-based maritime relief organization, says, "Our intention is to stand with persecuted religious minorities in Greece in seeing a law changed, thereby granting them the same human and religious rights as those enjoyed by members of the Greek Orthodox Church in the U.S."

Stephens returned to Greece at the beginning of May to face the appellate court with Williams and Macris on May 21st. If the appeal fails, all three men could go immediately to prison.

## New Zealand raises goals

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealand Baptists are aiming for a total of 300 churches and 40,000 members in the next 15 years.

At the recent Baptist Union assembly, delegates accepted a challenge to raise an earlier goal, proposed five years ago, of 200 churches by the year 2000. In 1984, Brian Smith, then newly-appointed as principal of the Baptist College of New Zealand, suggested almost doubling the Union's present membership of 21,000 to 40,000. There are currently 179 churches, who will each set faith goals, in the Union.

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## Annuity trustees approve new building for '88

DALLAS — After nearly two years of study, trustees of the Annuity Board authorized negotiations for a lease for the SBC agency's home office here.

The board will negotiate with a Dallas-based developer to design and construct a new building near downtown Dallas. After an initial 20-year lease, the Annuity Board will have the option of extending the lease for another 20 years at competitive market rates. The board will occupy about 110,000 feet and an expansion space of 30,000 feet will be included if needed in the future.

Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan said the trustee relocation committee agreed with construction consultants that the board should enter into a long-term lease in lieu of purchasing or constructing a new building.

The current building was sold to Lincoln Properties, Inc., in 1984 at \$300 per square foot. A lease arrangement allows the board to remain in the building through 1988.

Morgan noted the present 26-year-old facility was sold because the property valued had increased to allow the board to make a substantial profit. He also said the building had deteriorated and was becoming inefficient to operate.

Assets for the first quarter grew 26.7 percent to a record \$113.8 million, raising the asset base to \$1.8 billion.

Net income totaled \$101 million, exceeding any other previous first quarter earnings by \$56.9 million.

The strong stock market pushed the unit value of the Variable Fund to a record of \$6.21.



## Amputation required

Philip Newberry, the Southern Baptist missionary child who contracted meningitis in late March, posed for this passport picture in Richmond the day before getting sick. The illness caused gangrene in his extremities, requiring amputation of his hands and feet on April 29. He is the son of missionaries Randy and Jan Newberry of Gordon, Texas. (BP) PHOTO by Stanley Leary

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From left are three First Church, Meridian, staffers who have served 25 years each there; John Laughlin, Beverly Tinnin, and David McCubbin.

## Three staffers serve quarter century apiece

First Church, Meridian, will celebrate a quarter century of service for three of its staff members on May 25.

The pastor, Beverly Tinnin; the associate pastor/minister of education, David McCubbin; and the minister of music/minister of senior adults, John Laughlin, all are completing 25 years on the church staff.

Guest speaker for the Sunday morning service will be Wilmer C. Fields, vice president for public relations for the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville.

Joining Fields on the platform will be Dan Hall, director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and Leon Young, Lauderdale County director of missions. A reception for the three is set for 2:30-4:30 p.m. to honor them.

Beverly Tinnin, pastor, has held that post longer than any of the other 20 church pastors. He began at First Church on May 1, 1961. Earlier pastorates were in Louisiana and

Texas. A naval aviator in World War II, Tinnin is a graduate of Louisiana College and earned bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from New Orleans Seminary. Tinnin and his wife, the former Bobbie Ruth Pittman, have three daughters and four grandchildren.

David McCubbin began his service to First Church on Aug. 15, 1961, the same day as John Laughlin. While a seminary student, he was pastor at Hico, Tex., and for four and a half years he was pastor at First Church, New London, Tex., before moving to Meridian. He and his wife, the former Patsy Ann Woolverton, have four daughters and one grandchild.

John Laughlin, came to First Church only to sing for a service, but the church liked him so well, they called him as minister of music. He came there from music ministry in Louisiana and Texas. He and his wife, the former Jeannie Lackey, have two sons, two daughters, and three grandchildren.

## Statistics picture America as a nation of handguns

There are now more than 60 million handguns in the United States, compared to less than 10 million in 1953.

By the year 2000 there will be 100 million handguns in civilian hands if the current rate of one gun produced every 13 seconds continues.

According to Handgun Control, Inc., a Washington-based group working for controls on handgun availability, more than 20,000 American citizens are killed by handguns every year. Someone is injured by a handgun every 2.5 minutes.

Also each year:

- \* About 300,000 crimes are committed with handguns.
- \* More than 200,000 privately-owned handguns are stolen.
- \* An estimated \$500 million is spent treating people who have been shot with handguns.

\* Every day, on the average, one child under age 14 is killed with a handgun.

Many members of Handgun Control, Inc. or their relatives have been victims of handgun misuse. One person recently added to the board is Sarah Brady, whose husband James Brady, presidential press secretary, was seriously wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Reagan.

## 29,000 SBC churches tell good news

By Sherri Anthony Brown

ATLANTA (BP) — An estimated 80 percent of Southern Baptist churches participated in "Good News America, God Loves You" simultaneous revivals which officially ended April 27, but final results will not be available for several months.

"All the reports we have received and the preliminary totals from state evangelism directors indicate about 29,000 of the 36,000 churches conducted revival meetings," said Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism at the Home Mission Board and chairman of its simultaneous revival committee.

Churches in all 50 states and almost 90 percent of the 1,200 Baptist associations were committed to conducting revivals, Harris reported. But it will be next year before totals will be received and tabulated.

Early reports indicate the "highest attendance and most enthusiasm about revivals in years," said Harris. "These are key indicators that true biblical revival has occurred."

Harris defined revival as an experience for Christians that results in evangelism. "Evangelism is winning the lost to Christ through the witness of revived Christians," he said.

Robert Hamblin, vice president for evangelism at the Home Mission Board, noted "We've experienced vast sociological changes in the last 30 years that make revival meetings more difficult. But the simultaneous revivals have demonstrated a need for fellowship and encouragement that we have been neglecting."

Sherry Anthony Brown writes for the Home Mission Board.

## Devotional

### The best gift

By Marcus Finch

Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15).

Parents are always striving to give their children gifts. This is a part of the responsibility and joy of being a parent. As the child grows and gets older, it is amazing how the gifts change — in size and expense. Before long the gifts of stuffed animals and toy cars give way to more expensive gifts. But, the best gift parents give cannot be bought with money. That is the gift of a Christian home, a home where the child experiences love, security, and acceptance.

Christian homes do not come into existence automatically or by accident, but by a deliberate choice of building one's home on the principles and teachings of Jesus Christ. All too often we find people building their homes out of hay and stubble. When pressing times come, their homes crumble about them, and those living there don't understand why this happens.

We need to hear the words of our Lord again: "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them I will liken unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock. The rain descended, and the floods came, and the wind blew, and beat upon the house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24-25).

Dad, Mom, have you given your child the best gift you can — a Christian home? If not, do so while there's still time.

Marcus Finch is pastor, Oakland Heights, Meridian.

## Two division chairmen

(continued from page 3)

broad areas of need. \$19,850,000 will provide quality teaching and professional care. Endowed scholarships at the colleges will be increased by \$6,500,000. \$7,450,000 will provide expanded programs, modernized libraries, new equipment and continuing education for faculty, staff and students. An ongoing maintenance program will be funded with \$6,200,000.

The campaign is organized in four soliciting divisions. The family gifts division is chaired by Charles W.

Pickering. It is responsible for soliciting the support of institution faculty and staff, boards, and campaign leadership.

The leadership and major gifts division are seeking pledges for individuals, corporations and foundations. The final division is congregational gifts. It will take the appeal to each Mississippi Baptist church beginning in the late fall.

To date, commitments total \$13,909,047, nearly 35 percent of the goal.

## The Truth in Crisis

The Controversy in the Southern Baptist Convention

Foreword by  
Louis Moore

Every pastor, deacon, Sunday School teacher, and committee member should read **The Truth in Crisis**. It is the only history of the recent activities and contains quotes and interviews from such notables as Russell Dilday, Cecil Sherman, Paige Patterson, Larry Lewis, Paul Pressler, Roy Honeycutt and a host of others.

Future generations will use it as a concise history. For today, it is a readable, in-depth analysis of the events of recent years in the Southern Baptist Convention.

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# JAMES C. HEFLEY



# Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

## Project: "Out of Africa"

Dear Editor:

How thrilled we were to read your article concerning the Dewi Williams family in South Africa. We were fortunate to be in on their first view of America when they arrived at Mississippi College in August of 1974. They immediately became like part of our family, uplifting and inspiring. Their dedication to the Lord was obvious, as well as their ability to live life to the fullest, yet frugally.

Our friendship has only deepened since they returned to South Africa after Dewi completed his education at M.C. and N.O. Seminary. Although communication has been sparse, we have never lost touch. About a year ago we realized that they might be considering returning to America to live. Naturally, we wanted to rescue them from the political situation there, but that wasn't reason enough. Now, however, they tell us they feel their work in South Africa is nearing completion and they also desire American advantages for their children.

I would like to see this deserving family begin their journey "Out of Africa." It is not so simple as before when Dewi's education was their purpose. He tells me that, in order to satisfy immigration authority requirements, he must have a job here before leaving South Africa. In faith, I believe there is a church in Mississippi willing to provide him this opportunity. Since money will be needed to provide them transportation, a bank fund is being established for that purpose under the above project name.

A brief recap of Dewi's qualifications:

- 41 year old seminary graduate
- conservative, supportive wife
- 3 teenage sons (13, 15, 17)
- preach, teach, lead youth, song director
- willing, humble
- speaks 5 languages fluently
- works well with own hands and with people

Linda and Tommy Beard  
P. O. Box 307  
Harrisville, MS 39082  
847-5333

## Don't need rock

Editor:

First I would like to compliment you on the excellence of our state paper. I have access from time to time to three other state papers, and none is ever up to par with ours.

I appreciate the wide range of articles and information and am an avid reader.

I am sorry for the problems in the SBC and cannot understand the reason for them, because we are a Bible believing and teaching church, and the Bible does not change. I am

a conservative; and I do not believe, as do many I know, that anyone who is not a Baptist should be teaching in our seminaries. Our workers, it seems to me, should be taught Baptist beliefs and doctrines.

I love my church very much, and it has always been a big part of my life, but I am not happy with some things. I, like my peers, do not appreciate this "rock music" in church. I have known people to walk out on this loud racket. In my day Jazz was what was the "in" music, but I certainly never heard it in church. There is the claim that it brings young people, BUT I maintain that the church is not supposed to "move with the times;" the church, like the Bible, is the same. If worldly things are brought into the church, then it becomes like the world; and this the church is not supposed to be.

Young people should learn early that the church is different from the world. I think this is the reason there are so many break offs today and weird churches being formed. I admit if dancing and card playing are brought into mine, then I will have to find another or start one. I want my church to be different from things of the world that it might be a strength to me.

Mrs. James T. Arnold  
Columbus

## Divorced minister

Editor:

While countless thousands find themselves single again, many willingly and many unwillingly, all are hurting and receptive to that which will heal that hurt and give order and hope to their lives. There is a void in these lives that must be filled, a void which ought to be filled with Christ and the peace and healing that he brings.

Divorce is wrong! God hates divorce but loves the divorcee. It's ironic and tragic that our churches and our leaders, while hating divorce in a very real sense, have divorced the divorcee. It's time we give the divorced person an option other than "four walls or a singles' bar." It's time that we reclaim God-called ministers who have been victimized by divorce; a single again ministry would certainly offer exciting possibilities in this regard. It is time we opened our eyes to the needs of the single again. Here is a group that WANTS TO BE REACHED. The needs are obvious; the solutions are obvious; and, sadly, our neglect is obvious.

Some of the possibilities for a single again ministry include a diversified Bible study approach which takes the single again THROUGH the divorce experience and gives him/her a fresh, dynamic, life-changing relationship to Christ; church education as it relates to the divorced person; divorce recovery seminars; evangelism; counseling; outreach; leadership training; research and development; and, for the sake of brevity, a ministry that introduces the loving, healing presence of Christ to all those affected by divorce.

As I consider the parable of the Good Samaritan, I cannot help wondering how we as ministers, local churches, and Southern Baptists would be cast, were the parable dramatized. The divorcee is deeply wounded by rejection. Surely we want

to respond with love rather than with more rejection. The divorcees that experienced a love that failed; we MUST introduce them to the LOVE THAT NEVER FAILS — GOD'S LOVE.

Derrell ("Murph") Murphree  
A God-called, church-  
ordained minister  
Jackson

## Appreciation for accompanists

Last August you wrote an excellent editorial on Church Staff Appreciation. I appreciated that message. But what meant even more to me was the fact that you included the instrumentalists. I took it personally, and you were so right to say that we "are the unsung heroes on any church staff."

I must confess that I am writing this for two reasons: One, I simply wanted to express my thanks to you for your words of commendation, though they were not directed to me personally. The second reason for writing is just to get something off my chest.

We have just begun our own week-long revival in our own small church. Another lady and I are the instrumentalists there, and we love doing it. Being as it is a small and growing church, we are not paid. At any rate, last night our evangelist got up to preach, and he began expressing appreciation to all who are playing a part in this revival effort — everyone from the pastor and the music/youth minister, to the nursery workers. Though he did not name names, he mentioned groups, etc. And once again, the instrumentalists were left out.

I guess I'm a bit hurt. I'd still do it — it's more than worth all the hours it takes to plan and prepare. It's not that we want someone gushing over us... just one little word of recognition and appreciation helps. Because I want to serve, I have a master of music degree with a major in piano performance.

I was sort of thinking out loud to our girls last night, and one of them asked if I felt it was worth it. Yes, it IS worth it. And I must admit that a number of people thank us on a regular basis for our musical contributions.

So there! I've had my say about how I feel. And that should help you understand even more that your words in that one editorial spoke personally to me. Thanks — more than I can say. And keep up the good work! I always look forward to receiving and reading the Record each week.

Name withheld  
by request

## "Who cares?"

Editor:

I would like to thank Mr. Don G. Nerren for his article "Is There Anybody Out There Who Cares?" and respond as one of those ministers living with forced termination.

I was the third of four staff members to be terminated within less than a year. I had been on staff a little over two years when I was greeted one Monday morning with, "We love you and are satisfied with your work, but we think it is time for you to resign and would like to have your written resignation within the hour." I asked

for a reason but they could not give me one.

I resigned so the new pastor could bring in the new staff person he wanted. This new staff person has already left to pastor a church. He hardly stayed a year.

"Is there anybody out there who cares?" I am serving as music director for a small Presbyterian church in a nearby town. They care.

"Is there anybody out there who cares?" No local pastors have called. Music search committees never call anymore. There are seemingly no hopes for a full-time music ministry in a Baptist church in the near future. My annuity is frozen. I cannot add nor withdraw. I lost life insurance and disability insurance with the Annuity Board. I'm no longer eligible. We've learned to live on the barest of necessities and to live in substandard housing.

I am training for a new career to try to support my family but my heart is not in it. I long to be where God has called me — leading his people in singing his praises in a Baptist church.

"Is there anybody out there who cares?" Yes! Jesus cares. He has never left me. Good News, America, God Loves you. Can we start at our Jerusalem before we go to Judea and the uttermost parts of the world? I'm hurt and have been hurting for 19 months.

Name withheld  
by request

## A wife's point

Editor:

In the past few weeks I have read the many letters about divorced ministers with ever-increasing sorrow, because I am a pastor's wife going through a very painful time in my life — a divorce.

The wife may have been the one in the marriage who had the responsibility of completing unfinished tasks promised by a husband whose momentary popularity with the congregation was more important than his own family. She may have been the one totally responsible for the physical, emotional, mental, and even spiritual well-being of their children. She may have slept alone at night and kept little ones quiet during the day while the Reverend caught up on his sleep. It may have been her tears that stained the carpet as she faithfully lifted her husband up in prayer and begged God for a marriage that would bring glory to Christ.

She may have wanted to pay off their debts but was unable to provide for her own family because of her husband's view on working mothers. She may have even given herself willingly to him only to be used for his vain glory.

I submit to all judgemental Christians and friends — in every divorce, the circumstances vary; and before a person begins to judge and condemn, he or she should try "walking a mile in the other person's shoes." Do you think it is the actual divorce (the legal finality of a marriage) or the lack of Christian love and the self-willed acts that destroyed the marriage, that is the sin?

I personally have planted my faith in the salvation and free-pardon of Christ and this love and believe with

all my heart God forgives and still calls and equips divorced ministers, ex-pastor's wives, and any person who asks God's forgiveness and accepts his will for his/her life.

Name withheld  
by request

## Seminary attendance

Editor:

This letter is not to speak in behalf of Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. I am writing in response to a letter that appeared in the Baptist Record April 17, 1986.

I am a minister who holds to the innocent party clause in the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the writings of Paul in I Cor. 7. I have even written a booklet on this subject and am including a copy of it.

This is not to be an attack upon any divorced person, but to present the facts from an exegetical standpoint. While divorce is not the unpardonable sin, it is a handicap to the ministry of deacons and pastors.

I first wish to address myself to divorce and church officers. The matter of requirements for church officers is addressed in I Tim. 3:1-3, Titus 1:5-9, and I Tim. 4:12-13. Scripturally, salvation and fellowship on the one hand and service on the other are distinguished and distinguishable. One is received on the basis of faith, and the other is granted by the Lord who set his own moral or spiritual qualifications. There seems to be no moral or biblical objections to assigning services which deal with the internal relationship of the church to those divorced and remarried. But to assign such persons to positions where they represent the church to the public is another matter entirely. The scriptures are emphatic about spiritual, moral, and social requirements for specific services, as is evident in Acts 1:21, 22; 6:3-5; I Tim. 3:1-3; Titus 1:5-9; and I Tim. 4:12, 13. These include the office of pastor and the office of deacon.

I know from experience that there has been a good seminary in Memphis since 1975. At one time this seminary did let the "innocent party" men attend. I would like to note that the other seminaries did not let divorced men attend at one time. The brother does not have to wonder if they let reformed criminals attend. Mid-America has had at least one redeemed (reformed) criminal attend.

By the way, this redeemed (reformed) criminal had been turned down by the other seminaries.

Jackie Neil Yow  
Sarah

## Shroud of Turin

Editor:

When I found your article "Shroud's images painted on, research shows," I read it eagerly presuming that some new evidence had been advanced on the question. What I found was simply a repetition of the claims of Walter C. McCrone that have failed so far to gain much credit among scholars of the Shroud of Turin. Your title for the article confuses certainty and guesswork.

Patrick Henry Reardon  
Associate professor of Old  
Testament and Hebrew  
Trinity Episcopal School for  
Ministry, Ambridge, PA.





Atlanta, the commercial and cultural center of the South, will host the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 10-12. The cylindrical building is the Westin Peachtree Plaza, tallest hotel in the world and convention headquarters for the SBC meeting. (BP) Photo by Paul Obregon

## 'Disciplined optimism' sometime needed: Fuller

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP)—Charles Fuller, chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee says a person with his job needs to be an optimist.

"The chairman of this committee, if not optimistic and positive by nature, must be an optimist by discipline," says Fuller, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va., after the sixth meeting of the 22-member group.

The Peace Committee was created by Messengers to the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and instructed to seek the causes of controversy in the 14.4-million-member denomination and to recommend possible means of reconciliation.

After seemingly little progress toward the goals, Fuller says, "If our denomination does not have someone in this position who thinks and functions in a positive and optimistic way, then we could have despair on a grand scale."

After nine months, six committee meetings, at least 10 subcommittee meetings, visits to 11 national institutions and agencies by visitation subcommittees, often emotional confrontation and difference of opinion, millions upon millions of words, there is only a three-paragraph statement acknowledging theological diversity in the seminaries and convention to show as progress, Fuller admits he probably is "more of an optimist by discipline right now."

There have been some bright times, he says, when it appeared progress was about to appear, and at those times, he was optimistic both by nature and by discipline.

"That was true in February," he

says. "Then, we spent most of our time in sharp exchange, and then, suddenly, the statement on diversity came into being and we quickly had something. It has happened at other times, either through some event or simply out of the dynamic of the group. Then, my disciplined optimism is supported by some promise."

"In the meeting we just finished (the early April session) nothing came together. We did not suddenly have something to show. What we have is a prodding, plodding plan which is going to require planning and scheduling, and forbearance. There is nothing spontaneous about it."

"So, after this meeting, I am an optimistic by discipline," he says. "If what we have planned comes to pass, it may be that we did more than at any previous meeting. But, it doesn't look like much on paper."

During the April session, the committee adopted a strategy by which it and subcommittees will meet with principals in the controversy to discuss the issues at hand and try to enlist those persons as part of the peace process.

Fuller delivered a devotional at one of the sessions of the April meeting where he quoted a statement by the late British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who told a group of boys: "Young men, never, never, never, never, never give up."

"That is exactly the posture we are in. I think if people will stay by the stuff and see this thing through, that we can steer this denomination through difficult times. That is not just pulpit rhetoric; I really believe it."

"I am human enough that I go through moods, but the one thing I

(Continued on page 10)

## Winfred Moore is willing to be nominated president

By Dan Martin

AMARILLO, Texas (BP) — Saying he believes the primary responsibility of the president of the Southern Baptist Convention is reconciliation, Winfred Moore said he is willing to be nominated for the post when the SBC meets in Atlanta in June.

Moore, 66, told his congregation at First Church here, May 11 he will allow his name to be presented for president of the 14.4-million-member denomination when it meets for its annual meeting, June 10-12 in the Georgia World Congress Center.

The announcement ended months of speculation as to whether Moore, currently first vice president of the convention, would allow his name to be placed in nomination, probably opposing Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, who announced April 2 to his congregation he will allow his nomination.

In 1985, Moore was the moderate-conservative candidate in a challenge to incumbent President Charles F. Stanley, of Atlanta, a fundamental-conservative, and drew 19,795 votes, the most ever for a losing candidate. Stanley was elected with 55.3 percent (24,453 votes).

Moore told his congregation: "For

a long time now, I have been deeply disturbed about the direction of our convention. At the present we are headed in the direction of making doctrinal agreement a prerequisite for cooperative missions and evangelism. Our Cooperative Program (unified method of support) was established because Baptists were confident that cooperation was the most effective way to reach the world for Christ. History consistently has shown the basic rightness of that decision."

"Knowing Baptists, I am sure that those who agreed to begin the Cooperative Program did not completely agree on doctrine. We have agreed and do agree on the authority of the Bible, but we do not and have not and will not completely agree on the interpretation of the Bible. What we did back in 1926 (when the Cooperative Program was founded) was to trust each other and to agree on the priority and wisdom of cooperative missions and evangelism."

"At this moment, we are at a crossroad in our history. We need to know just how important and grave the decision before us is. We can choose the path of doctrinal uniformity as a prerequisite for missions, or

we can reclaim the path we started on, the path of common commitment to missions, under God, under the authority of the Bible and in the freedom of the Spirit."

The statement continued: "It is because of my deep conviction that this is the path — the original path and the only right and baptistic path to lasting cooperative commitment to reaching the world for Christ — that I am brought to this moment and this statement."

"I think God has put me in a place to help us reclaim our original mission and spirit. I do not want to be here, but by God's grace and under his leadership, I am announcing my willingness to be nominated for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention," Moore said.

He added: "I believe that the prime task of the president of our convention at this time is reconciliation, that his role, even as the role of a pastor, must be that of a servant, not a ruler. If I should be nominated and if I should be elected, I will give my best to these goals and to fairness for all of our churches and people."

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

## Crowder suit to be appealed

ATLANTA (BP) — An appeal will be filed to a federal court decision granting the Southern Baptist Convention a summary judgment in a dispute over conduct of business at the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC.

On May 5, Judge Robert H. Hall of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia granted the judgement to the SBC and its Ex-

ecutive Committee in a suit which had been filed by Robert S. Crowder and others, protesting events which occurred at the Dallas meeting of the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

In his decision, Hall ruled the dispute "is one involving questions of internal church affairs and governance over which this court has no

jurisdiction. . . . It has long been a fundamental proposition of constitutional law that civil tribunals have no power to resolve disputes which are ecclesiastical in nature."

Hall cited the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and said it prevents the intrusion of secular courts into internal church matters.

## Controversial presidency doesn't bother Stanley

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP) — The fact he has what is probably the most controversial presidency in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention doesn't bother Charles F. Stanley, who has served two one-year terms of office and will not be eligible for re-election when the SBC meets in the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta June 10-12.

"Paul was controversial; so was Jesus. Everybody else who has ever accomplished much in life has been controversial to some degree," Stanley said, and added, "I have not chosen to be controversial; other people have made it so."

Stanley's two years at the helm of the 14.4-million-member denomination have been tumultuous, starting with his first-ballot victory at the 1986 annual meeting in Kansas City, when he drew 52.18 percent of the vote to defeat two opponents.

The tall, slender Atlanta pastor told Baptist Press: "It seems somehow my election ignited some kind of explosion. It may be that God placed me in this position as a spark to surface and to deal with some of the underlying problems that have desperately needed to be dealt with."

"My election seemed to spark off the controversy and that may be the biggest contribution I have made to the denomination. I think we have made a tremendous amount of progress as we have been forced to deal with issues we have avoided for years and years."

Much of Stanley's concern for the SBC revolves around the attitude of Southern Baptists to the Bible and a belief the SBC must not become liberal and dwindle, as others have done.

"The greatest need of the SBC is that we must come to some kind of unified agreement that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. Once we settle that, we will see the most dramatic, powerful moving of God, which I believe will exceed the movement of God in any denomination in the history of our country. As long as we are divided about the Bible, that will not happen."

He noted he believes there can be "diversity in methods without any problems, but you can only have so much diversity in what you believe and still cooperate effectively."

Dan Martin is BP news editor.



## Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

### The roof of the world

He that framed the mountains and created the wind and declares unto man what is his thought, that makes the morning darkness and treads upon the high places of the earth — the Lord, the God of hosts, is his name (Amos 4:13).

"The snow kissed mountain kingdom of the Himalayas." That's Nepal. It's at the center of the range that stretches from Burma to Afghanistan. It claims Everest, and Annapurna, and six other of the world's highest mountains.

I'd read a book about Annapurna. I'd heard of Gurkha soldiers and Sherpa guides, but knew little else of that land. When I asked Joan to go with me to Thailand, she said all right — provided we would also go to Nepal. She knew a Christian family there, and had been praying for the people of Nepal for several years.

The Royal Nepal Airline, despite predictions to the contrary, delivered us smoothly in Kathmandu, the capital city and the country's only major city. When I boarded, in my struggle to stow a small suitcase in a locker over my seat, I dropped it on the head of the woman sitting in front of me. She smiled — with tears in her eyes — and graciously accepted my profuse apologies. (I could see myself in a lawsuit for nearly breaking her poor neck.)

Trekkers gathered in knots at the tiny airport and in the lobby of the Yak and Yeti Hotel. For hundreds of years Nepal was an isolated place; in the past 20 years tourism has grown from a trickle to a torrent. People climb and camp on the mountain trails. Some of the "hills" around Kathmandu are 16,000 feet. Fifty peaks, a little further north, are between 25,000 and 29,000.

From our fourth floor room I could see "the far pavilions." Pigeons cooed on the windowsill, talking to each other most of the night. (Nepal is famous for its 800 species of birds.)

Once I wrote a limerick about a yak:

*There was an old yak of Tibet  
Whose long hair got hung up in a net  
He looked more like an ox  
Than a frog or a fox  
He weighed less when bone dry  
than when wet.*

It was a bit hard to believe I was in the Yak and Yeti Hotel, not too many miles south of Tibet: (The Yeti in the name stands for the abominable snowman.) It is a five-star hotel, an

island of luxury surrounded by pockets of poverty. (Nepal is one of the ten poorest countries in the world.)

I sat in the hotel garden, beside a small emerald lake, watching a gardener in tight-legged trousers weed a bed of daisies. The sun felt good, until a chilly breeze sprang up. Temperatures range from tropical in the "terai," or southern grain belt, to sub-arctic in the high mountain region in the north. The Kathmandu Valley is in the "hill country" between the two extremes.

For all I know, the omelettes I ate were of melted yak cheese and the steak was water buffalo. Anyhow, they were good. The city has some modern sections and a wide variety of choices in food. Except for one meal with our Nepali friends, we ate at the Yak and Yeti.

In the hotel garden, a curved bridge led to an island shrine in the lake, a Hindu shrine. A sign beside the bridge said, "Holy Land. Take Off Shoes. Do Not Enter After Dark." A few feet away stood another shrine, with a statue of Buddha. (Nepal is the only country in the world whose state religion is Hinduism and whose king, Birendra, is venerated as a deity, an incarnation of the Hindu god, Vishnu.) When we rode past the king's palace, our driver told us about his king being a god. Since we had no car, we daily hired a young Nepali fellow who uses his old blue car — don't ask me what kind of car — for taking tourists on excursions. My friend told him that we worship a king named Jesus.

Ninety percent of Nepal's 17 million are Hindus, but many elements of Hinduism and Buddhism have blended. Also there is animism, especially among tribes in the high mountains. (Lumbini, Nepal, is said to be the birthplace of Buddha, and many of the "sacred" rivers of Hinduism originate in the Himalayas.)

Kathmandu means "wood" and "temple." It and its twin town of Patan, across the Bagmati River, are filled with ancient wooden and carved stone temples. In fact, Kathmandu is said to have more Buddhist and Hindu shrines than houses and more idols than inhabitants. And Nepal probably has more religious festivals and holidays than any country in the world.

Another week I will write about the role the United Mission to Nepal (a

group of Christian missionaries of different denominations, including two Southern Baptists) play in this country.

Monkeys were running up and down the steps to the gold-roofed Buddhist Monkey Shrine. Cows ambled about outside the zoo, and crossed the streets whenever or wherever they chose. Or they would lie down for a rest in the middle of the public square. According to the beliefs of ancient Hinduism, these animals will be reincarnated as members of the priestly Brahman caste in their next life. And they are to be treated as sacred.

In the zoo I saw guinea pigs, lions, porcupines, hyenas, antelopes, leopards, and the Himalayan black bear. (In the south of Nepal live the one-horned rhinoceros, elephants, tigers, the wild boar, and deer.)

In the narrow, crowded, winding, often unpaved streets of Kathmandu, dogs and pigs wandered along with the cows. Vendors were selling idols, carved wood prayer wheels, brassware, and herbal remedies. The Honda and the Mercedes Benz mingled with the pedal-propelled ricksha.

Outside the Temple of the Living Goddess, I bought from a young boy a small statue of the Dalai Lama, carved from yak bone. Another boy with him kept rubbing his stomach and pointing to his mouth. I gave him a few rupees. Just then I looked up and a beautiful little girl, perhaps seven, dressed in red, with rouged cheeks, and gold jewelry, appeared at an open window near a second floor balcony. At adolescence, she (the Living Goddess) will be replaced with another girl child, as a gift, I was told, to the gods. If she ever marries, she or he, or both, will mysteriously "disappear."

One afternoon our driver in his blue taxi took us and a Nepali family far up into the mountains, so that we could see the houses perched high, and the crops growing on terraced mountainsides. We met women, and men, walking along the roads carrying loads of wood or long grasses tied on their backs. We passed a flock of sheep, and saw goats climbing over the rocks above us.

We ate our picnic lunch, prepared by the Yak and Yeti staff — so close to the very top of the world — and drank in the splendor of the Annapurna range.



### Missionary to Italy to help beginning religious writers

Helen Holmes Ruchti receives the finishing touches on her folk costume by dressmaker, Signora Pina of Sardina. Mrs. Ruchti, who with her husband W. C., served 25 years as Southern Baptist missionaries to Rome, Italy, will open each session of the seventh annual Christian Writers' Grand Ole Workshop in Nashville, Tenn., June 22-26. Mrs. Ruchti worked as press representative for the Italian Baptist Mission. She was the first woman to serve as president of the European Baptist Convention (English language).

Personnel at the workshop will also include Harold Smith of Broadman Press; Reuben Herring, editor of *Home Life*; Ross West of the Sunday School Department, Baptist Sunday School Board; and others. For further information, write the workshop director, John Warren Steen, 6511 Currywood Drive, Nashville, Tenn. 37205.

## Book Reviews

**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE, The New King James Version; Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville; hardcover, 1390 pages; \$24.95.**

This red letter edition of the Authorized Version in today's English, includes study helps, notes, and outlines designed for pastors, lay leaders, and for new Christians. Master outlines were written for every book of the Bible, many by Southern Baptists including Jimmy Draper who wrote the introduction to Second Samuel; Ron Herrod, Acts; Adrian Rogers, First Kings; the late Jaroy Weber, Ruth; and Bill Weber, Micah. Included is a series of Christian Life Master Outlines and study notes concerning such topics as the Bible itself, God in three persons; Spirit beings, and the last days. The first master outline discusses the topic "Inerrancy of the Scriptures." A subject index, a listing of people and places of the Bible, a 123 page concordance, plus maps of the Bible lands, all make this footnoted Bible a valuable study book that will help the reader understand the Book and its place in the life of the Christian — (TN).

**A HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS** edited by Robert L. Thomas and Stanley N. Gundry (Harper and Row, \$14.95, 345 pp.) The New American Standard Version is used as the basic text for this new harmony of the gospels. As the editors say in the introduction, though a harmony of the gospels "could never replace the four

gospels studied individually, it is an indispensable tool for gaining a well-rounded overview of Jesus' life in all its facets." The book assembles Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in chronologically meaningful sequence. Extensive comments are given in footnotes. The geographical location or probable location of every happening is given throughout the harmony. Maps are included at the end. Twelve selected topics are discussed in essays in the closing section, such as "The Languages Jesus Spoke," "The Genealogies of Matthew and Luke," and "The Arrest and Trial of Jesus." The harmony is geared for the college or seminary student, but is also for serious students of the Scripture, studying privately. — AWM

**A TIME FOR REMEMBERING, The Ruth Bell Graham Story, by Patricia Daniels Cornwell (Harper and Row, paperback, 270 pp. \$5.95)** Now a paperback edition has been released, of the 1983 biography of Ruth Bell Graham, written by a freelance writer from Virginia. The biography is a detailed account of Mrs. Graham's life — her childhood as daughter of missionaries in China, her marriage to Billy Graham, motherhood, her experiences since becoming a major world figure. The book is illustrated with a section of family photographs. It has been described as "a loving portrait of a remarkable, vital Christian wife, mother, and woman with her own unsung ministry to the downtrodden." — AWM

## Prison workshops are planned

Two prison ministry workshops are upcoming in Mississippi.

The new prison facility near Whitfield will be the site of a Central Mississippi Conference on Jail and Prison Ministries, May 24 at 9 a.m.

Speakers include Department of Corrections Commissioner Morris Thigpen and Mike Weissman of Set Free Ministries.

Workshops will be held on ex-offenders adoption, aftercare centers, community resources, and ex-offenders fellowship. Testimonies, music, and a message will be a part of the program, which will conclude at 2:15. For details, contact Bert Everett at 969-3921 or 948-8696.

The other workshop will take place May 31 at the Holiday Inn in Biloxi. It begins with a breakfast buffet with a

general session starting at 9:15. Workshops include letter writing, inmate family ministry, and aftercare ministry. For details contact John McCarthy at 762-9179 or 762-1658.

John McBride, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions Department, is president of the Mississippi Jail and Prison Ministry Association.



## Names in the News

Kenny Marks, a contemporary Christian artist, will be in concert at the George County High School Activity Center, Lucedale, June 6, at 7 p.m. The concert is sponsored by the youth ministry of First Church, Lucedale. John L. Walker, pastor. Admission at the door is \$2.00 donation.

Cortez Hutchinson, Jr. ("Hutch") was recently honored by First Church, Yazoo City, on the occasion of his tenth anniversary as minister of education and administration.



Hutchinson F. Yates.

Hutchinson, a native of Alexandria, La., holds a B.S. degree in pharmacy from Northeast Louisiana State College, and a master of religious education degree from New Orleans Seminary. Mrs. Hutchinson (Janette) is a native of Baton Rouge, La., and they are the parents of three daughters.

Boyd Tweedy was recently honored by Carterville Church, Petal, for his ten years of service as assistant pastor. Tweedy went to Carterville from Comite Church, Baton Rouge, as minister of music, education, and youth, and became assistant pastor in 1985.

A surprise reception and "roast" was held in his honor, and the church presented him with a plaque and a check for \$1,000.

Wade Rogers, pastor of Hebron Church, Taylorsville, and Gerald L. Hodge, pastor of Southside Church, Aberdeen, were participants in graduation exercises at Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla., on May 9. Each was awarded the doctor of ministry degree. Harry E. Fletcher, president of Washington Bible College and Capital Bible Seminary, gave the commencement address.

FUKUOKA, Japan (BP) — Coretta Scott King, the widow of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., accepted an honorary doctorate May 9 from Seinan Gakuin University as she brought her late husband's philosophy of nonviolence to Japan.

The Christian university here, honored her during a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the school's founding by Southern Baptist missionaries. Begun as a junior high school for boys in 1916, Seinan Gakuin has become a leading university in Japan, teaching some 10,000 students in college, seminary, and high school programs.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Karen Benson, assistant public relations director at Baylor University, Waco, Texas, will become communications group manager at Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, June 2.

She succeeds Carol Kelly who is now an associate for the Tennessee WMU.

I. B. Leathers was ordained a deacon at Main Street Church on May 4. Following the service Leathers was presented an ordination certificate, a deacon lapel pin, and a copy of Henry Webb's book, *Deacons: Servant Models in the Church*. James S. Allen is pastor.

Monica Powell has been selected for presentation in the awards volume, *Outstanding Young Women of America, 1985*. Miss Powell, who lives at 140 Wingfield Court, Jackson, is a member of Parkway Church and was graduated this month from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. She plans to marry Todd Ivy on May 24.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Morton F. Rose, vice president for church programs and services at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, has announced his retirement effective Oct. 1, 1986, after 19 years at the agency.

Rose, 59, has been a vice president at the board since 1979, supervising the programs of Sunday School, Church Training, Church Music, national student ministries, family ministry, church architecture, church media library, church administration, church recreation and Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers.

LEAMINGTON SPA, England — The Princess of Wales has accepted an invitation from an 84-year-old Baptist here to look over his "wonderful home."

Richard Crouch is one of more than 80 residents at "Southfields," a Baptist Housing Association apartment development here. "It is a wonderful place," he wrote Princess Diana. To the delight of the residents the visit is to take place in July, *Baptist Times* reported.

ABILENE, Texas (BP) — A financial commitment of about \$750,000 to establish the W. D. and Hollis R. Bond Chair of English plus two additional endowed funds at Hardin-Simmons University was announced April 25 by President Jesse C. Fletcher.

## Mississippians are graduated from Southwestern Baptist Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas — The 442 men and women receiving degrees from Southwestern Seminary May 9 included 16 Mississippians, one of them receiving a doctorate.



Johnson

President Russell H. Dilday conferred degrees upon the Mississippians during spring commencement ceremonies at Travis Avenue Baptist Church.

Roy L. Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., brought the address on "The Church in Search of Its Soul."

Mississippi graduates include

James Robert Bamberg, Winona, master of music, will serve as minister of music at First Church, Colleyville, Tex.; Danny Chester Burnham, Puckett, master of divinity; James Nathan Fitts, Tupelo, master of arts in religious education; Donald Ray Gann, Vicksburg, master of divinity;

Ronald Conrad Harris, Golden, master of divinity; Stephen Ellis Hogan, Petal, master of arts in religious education, will serve as minister of music and education at Henderson St. Church, Cleburne, Tex.

Lee S. Johnson, Jackson, doctor of philosophy; will serve as associate pastor at First Church, Durant, Okla.; Harold Tribble Kitchings Jr., Clinton, master of arts in religious education, will serve as minister of youth and ac-

tivities at Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson;

Janet Marie Mayhall, Magee, master of arts in religious education; Monica Powell, Jackson, master of arts in religious education; James Kenneth Rushing, Biloxi, master of music, will serve as minister of music and youth at Baylor Church, Ennis, Tex.; Boyd Gene Smith, Lambert, master of arts in religious education; Gregory Lane Smith, West Point, master of arts in communication, will serve as news and religion writer at Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, Tupelo; Hope Starnes, Greenville; master of arts in religious education; Judy Gail Stroud, Vicksburg, master of arts in religious education; Stephen Russell Tutor, Randolph, master of divinity.

## Disciplined optimism is needed . . .

(Continued from page 8) have not lost since I became chairman of this committee is my commitment to tenacity."

"Sometimes when you have gone over and over something and restated it in every way you think you can and see that the differences have never left the committee, it is easy to feel

frustrated. Sometimes I think that were it not for the people who trusted us and because of the purpose we were created, it would hardly be worth the effort," he says.

One of the reasons he remains optimistic, he says, is because he "still believes in divine intervention. That is the underlying reason for my op-

timism. When I pray—and I do so for the Peace Committee every day—I still pray with the air of expectancy."

"It is important to remember that we still believe in God's divine intervention. If he is not through with Southern Baptists he will intervene."

Dan Martin is BP news editor.

## Intensive care

*Drugs are just as deadly  
as a loaded gun.  
Don't take chances  
with your life*



"Am I an addict?"

Someone wrote a letter describing symptoms of depression and physical problems that were relieved by taking prescription drugs. She asked, "Would I be considered an addict? I take prescribed medication and see my doctor regularly."

The term "addict" refers to a person who is dependent upon drugs. The person makes use of certain drugs to change moods and feelings. This dependency may grow, in varying degrees, to the extent that a person finds it necessary to handle the stress

and changes of life with chemicals. To live drug free lives, many people are helped through proper treatment. Consult your physician, and look at your needs realistically. Act accordingly.

Questions addressed to Intensive Care are forwarded to the Chemical Dependency Center of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. They are fielded by experts in the field of drug abuse. Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Every person has something to give. You may deny this, but it is true. God who created man endowed him with the ability to give. Not all can give the same gift of the same quantity. To say you have nothing to give

is to claim a depth of poverty that you have not experienced. The chances are that you are richer than you think. You should take inventory of your assets and not always dwell on what you do not have. — R. A. Beltz

## Simpson plans mission fair for association emphasis

The theme for association emphasis across the Southern Baptist Convention in May is "Churches Caring for their Neighbor."

Saturday, May 24, 2-4 p.m., a Missions Fair will be held at the Simpson Association Center. Twelve booths will display areas of Southern Baptist mission work in different countries. There will be open house of all Simpson Baptist Association facilities at that time.

Twenty-two laymen from Simpson Association were invited to speak in 24 of the churches in their association on May 4, in regard to association emphasis. A prayer breakfast was held.

Sunday, May 25, is annual Association Harvest Day in Simpson Baptist Association. All money received in Harvest Day offerings is used for building and repair of association property. H. Glen Schilling is director of missions.



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### SBC ATLANTA

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# Staff Changes

Will McRaney has assumed his duties as full time minister of youth at Faith Church, Starkville. He is a native of Natchez, where he starred in football and baseball at South Natchez High School. McRaney received a B.A. in business from Mississippi State University.

His wife is the former Sandy Vandevender. McRaney was ordained to the gospel ministry by Faith Church, March 2, 1986. His ministry responsibilities at Faith will include both youth and college students.

Tim Smith was recently called by Summerwood Church, Olive Branch, as an associate to the pastor.

He will assume his duties on June 1. Smith is a graduate of Olive Branch High School, Delta State University, and Southwestern Seminary, where he received the master of arts degree in religious education. Armond D. Taylor is pastor.

Barry Edward Hardy has accepted the call as business administrator at Broadmoor Church in Jackson, beginning May 19.

He has served churches in Jackson and Crystal Springs, in addition to holding youth positions in Greenville and Pearl, and will be going to Broadmoor from First Church, Crystal Springs.

Hardy graduated from Kosciusko High School and Mississippi College. He holds a master of religious education from Southwestern Seminary, where he also received certification as a Church Business Administrator. He is a member of the National

Association of Business Administrators.

He is married to the former Debbie Youngblood, and they are the parents of Brian, age 6, and Amy, age 2. Jim Futral is pastor.

Mike Jones has accepted a position as minister of education at First Church, Oxford. He and his wife, Pam, have one son, Benjamin. They are moving from Longview, Tex., where Jones is minister of education/music, Valley View Church. Jones is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary. He has served as a missionary journeyman with the Foreign Mission Board in Kenya.

Bethel Church, Columbus, has licensed David Green to the pastoral ministry. He is now attending MUW in Columbus and will be going to seminary in January. Green is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Green. Bill Webb is pastor.

Freddie Odom has recently resigned as pastor of Piave Church, Richton. He is available for revivals, pulpit or music supply. He may be contacted at 805 Maxwell Drive, Hattiesburg, MS 39401 or phone 582-4297.

Allen Thornton has joined the staff of Carterville Church as minister of education and youth. Allen goes from First Church, Burleson, Tex., where he has served for the past two years as minister of youth.

Allen recently graduated from Southwestern Seminary, with a master of divinity.

Thornton received his bachelor of arts degree from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Allen is married to the former Sylvia Benson, and they have a son, and are expecting their second child in October.

# Homecomings

County Line (Copiah): May 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; dinner at the church, and music in the afternoon; Vann Windom, Highland, speaker; Peter Haik, pastor.

Temple (Hinds Madison): 33rd homecoming; May 25; morning services, 9:45; J. W. Brister, morning speaker, 10:50; lunch served on the grounds; afternoon quartet singing, men and women; James Watts, pastor.

Roundaway (Sunflower): May 25; Memorial Homecoming Day; Hollis V. Bryant, Clinton, former pastor, consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, morning message, 11 a.m.; Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Madden III, New Albany, music; dinner on the

ground, 12 noon; afternoon program, 1:30, with a period of remembering church's history dating back to 1919.

Rock Hill, Rt. 2, Brandon: May 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; Robert Jones, former pastor, message; Randy Rogers, music; lunch at the noon hour, and singing in the afternoon; special guest, Pearl Quartet.

Friendship, Route 7, Brookhaven: May 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; morning worship, 11 a.m.; old fashion "dinner on the ground" at noon hour; afternoon worship service following; who grew up in the Friendship community, and now pastor of Trinity, Vicksburg, speaker; Harold Luther Smith, music director, Friendship, music; Wiley Reid, pastor.



Thursday, May 22, 1986

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

# Just for the Record

Northside Church, Greenville, recently held Pastor Appreciation Day for its pastor, Jack Demoney, and his wife, Rosie. Roy Raddin, Washington County director of missions, preached at the morning service. A covered dish dinner was served. The Martin Family sang in the afternoon, as well as several groups from the church. A program was presented, "This Is Your Life, Brother Jack." The Demoneys, who have been at Northside two years, are pictured with Washington County R. A. director J. H. Kerr, who offers congratulations on the special day.



Washington Church, Washington, will have its annual Ladies Prayer Retreat, May 24. The program will begin at 9 a.m. and continue through 2:30 p.m.

The theme for this year's retreat is "Let's Just Praise the Lord." The guest speakers include Mrs. Wilda Fancher, Monticello, and Mrs. Jean Atkins, New Hebron. A nursery and lunch will be provided. There will be a registration fee of \$5.00.

# Revival Dates

Antioch (Lawrence): May 25-30; Sunday school, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; dinner at the church; afternoon service, 1:15 p.m.; Billy Murphy, speaker; Hubert Greer, music; John Hedgepeth, pastor.

Coila (Carroll): June 8-13; homecoming, Sunday morning, regular services, lunch served at noon; revival, Sunday evening, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 8 p.m.; Terry Ruinlans, Mendenhall, evangelist; Billy Blakey, pastor.

Ebenezer, (Holmes): May 25-28; Sunday, 10 a.m., special music program; 11 a.m., homecoming; 7 p.m., revival; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Slonaker, homecoming preacher; Billy Barron, revival preacher; Maxine and Bill Salley, music.

Heidelberg (Jasper): May 25-28; services, 10 a.m., 7:30 p.m.; Robert H. Perry, evangelist; Dennis Brown, music; J. W. Tynes, pastor.

Borrowing is not much better than begging. — Lessing



Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, recently held a Round-Up for its GAs. Pictured is Patricia Simmons, GA/Mission Friends Director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, having lunch with the GAs. Also, shown are GAs in their designs of a Korean dress and mask. Debbie Bawner is the leader, and Mrs. Jean Hagen is director. Kara Blackard is pastor.

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Db AUDIO SERVICES



Unity (Union): May 25; 10:30 a.m.; Perry Tanksley, guest speaker; Tanksley is author of many books of poetry; Kermit Grammer, pastor.

There is a certain relief in change, even though it be from bad to worse; as I have found in travelling in a stagecoach, that it is often a comfort to shift one's position and be bruised in a new place. — Irving — Tales of a Traveller

# Revival Results

Coldwater (Philadelphia): April 20-23; Charles Melton, preaching; Buck Stovall and Faye Moore, music; two professions of faith, a number of public decisions; Barron Pilgrim, pastor.



# Credentials, Tellers committees appointed

ATLANTA (BP) — The Credentials and Tellers Committees for the 1986 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention have been appointed by SBC President Charles F. Stanley of Atlanta.

Chairman of the 27-member Credentials Committee will be Charles Page, pastor of First Church, Nashville.

Chairman of the 22-member Tellers Committee will be Jack Graham, pastor of First Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.

According to the SBC bylaws, the Credentials Committee is appointed by the president, in consultation with the vice presidents. The bylaws specify the committee will review and rule upon any question which may arise in registration concerning the credentials of messengers, and "any

contention arising on the floor (of the convention) concerning seating of messengers."

The bylaws specify the Tellers Committee is appointed by the president "in consultation with the registration secretary" and has the responsibility of tabulating any vote, under supervision of the registration secretary who is Lee Porter of Nashville.

Stanley also shifted John W. Bryan from the SBC Committee on Committees, representing West Virginia, to membership on the Credentials Committee.

Bryan, a pathologist and member of First Church, Bluefield, Va., currently is a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board, as a representative from Virginia. The Virginia-West Virginia state line divides Bluefield,

and Bryan's business address is in West Virginia.

Stanley named Robert Rice, pastor of Westmoreland Church, Huntington, W. Va., to replace Bryan on the 1986 Committee on Committees.

\*CREDENTIALS COMMITTEES\* (Charles Page, Nashville, Tenn., chairman.)

Tommy Hinson, pastor of First, West Memphis, Ark.; Jim Reeves, administrator and member of First, Van Nuys, Calif.; E. J. Daniels, an evangelist and member of Downtown, Orlando, Fla.; John Yarbrough, pastor of Tabernacle, Cartersville, Ga.;

Dwight (Ike) Reighard, pastor of New Hope, Fayetteville, Ga.; Raymond McCain, pastor of Machesney Park, Rockford, Ill.; Rudy Yakym, a stockbroker and member of First Southern of Mishawaka, South Bend, Ind.; Garland Morrison, pastor of Sunnycrest, Marion, Ind.; Jerry Lowrie, pastor of Main Street, Williamsburg, Ky.;

Lawrence Hall, a layman and member of Severns Valley, Elizabethtown, Ky.; Gary Brink, pastor of Immanuel, Romeo, Mich.; Bill Poe, pastor of Waldo Avenue, Independence, Mo.;

Robert Payne, pastor of Sycamore Hills, Independence, Mo.; Gary Berry, pastor of First, McComb, Miss.; Billy Cline, pastor of Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, N.C.;

Rick Hudson, pastor of Hillcrest, Carlsbad, N.M.; Ernie Perkins, director of missions, Capital association, Oklahoma City, and member of First Southern, Del City, Okla.; Sam Pace, director of missions, Comanche-Cotton association, Lawton, Okla., and member of First church-East, Lawton, Okla.; Mike Downey, pastor of First, Hennessey, Okla.;

Elton Johnson, pastor of Charleston, Charleston, S.C.; Gene Russell, pastor of Calvary, Desoto, Texas; Sam Jones, pastor of First, Pittsburg, Texas; Lester Collins, pastor of Tallowood, Houston, Texas; Don Bowen, pastor of Downtown, Alexandria, Va.; Art Ballard, pastor of Old Forest Road, Lynchburg, Va., and Bryan.

\*TELLERS COMMITTEE\* (Jack Graham, West Palm Beach, Fla., chairman)

Jack Millwood, pastor of First, Chickasaw, Ala.; Joe Simmons, crusade director for Bailey Smith's Real Evangelism crusades and member of Sagemont, Houston, Texas; Earl Potts, executive director of the Alabama Baptist Convention and

member of Eastern Hills, Montgomery; Doyle Carlton Jr., a businessman and member of First, Wauchula, Fla.;

Paul Caudill, an accountant and member of First, Lilburn, Ga.; Steve Turner, pastor of First, Ellenwood, Ga.; Hoge Hockensmith, pastor of Broadway, Lexington, Ky.; Jim Richards, pastor of Green Acres, Bastrop, La.; Terry Hart, a layman and member of Faith, Glen Burnie, Md.;

Paul Callahan, pastor of First, Warrenburg, Mo.; Charles Sexton, pastor of First, Princeton, Mo.; Kenneth Ridings, pastor of Grassy Branch and professor at the Fruitland Bible Institute, Hendersonville, N.C.; Bob Bender, pastor of Windsor Park, Austin, Texas; Jim Oliver, pastor of Central, Darlington, S.C.;

Hal Lane, pastor of Eutawville, Eutawville, S.C.; T. C. Pinckney, layman and member of Plymouth Haven, Alexandria, Va.; Jim Wilson, pastor of Delaney Street, Orlando, Fla.; Mrs. Carl (Myra) Bates, a homemaker and member of First, Hendersonville, N.C.; John Lee Taylor, pastor of West Jackson, Jackson, Tenn.; Ruth Gleaves, a homemaker and member of First, Atlanta; and Joe Porter, retired director of missions for the Caldwell Ray association and member of First, Richmond, Mo.



## First, Grenada, breaks ground

First Church, Grenada, had ground breaking for its new education building. Pictured are (l to r) Girault Jones, architect; Gary Little, contractor; Larry Franklin, Sonny Hayard, Mrs. Virginia Fulton, building committee members; Mrs. Gladys Field, oldest active member of the church (93 yrs. old); Cliff Colbert, building committee member; Earl McKay, Jr., chair-

man of deacons; Clovis Harden, chairman of building committee, Sam Hall, Jr., building committee member, and Jimmy G. McGee, pastor.

The new addition will provide for office suite, conference room, multi-use Sunday School class rooms and fellowship hall, kitchen, additional rest rooms, and elevator.

## Huff says committee 'not representative'

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Charles Stanley's appointment of a 54-member Committee on Committees to serve during the 1986 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention is "not representative of Southern Baptists," says SBC Second Vice President Henry Huff.

Huff, a Louisville attorney and member of Crescent Hill Church here, made his comment a week after SBC President Stanley named two persons from each of the 27 qualifying states to serve on the Committee on Committees for the 1986 annual meeting, scheduled June 10-12 in the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta.

Under the SBC Constitution and bylaws, the convention president appoints the Committee on Committees "in consultation with" the two vice presidents. This year the vice presidents are Winfred Moore, pastor of First Church, Amarillo, Texas, first vice president, and Huff, second vice president.

The primary work of the committee, which serves only during the three-day session of the SBC, is to nominate the 54-member Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees, which, in turn, nominates persons to serve on the boards of the national agencies of the convention. The Committee on Committees is appointed by the SBC president and does not require election by messengers at the annual meeting, while the other committees do require ratification.

Huff released a statement to Baptist Press concerning the Committee on Committees May 7, which he said is "concurrent with" by Moore.

Moore said: "Mr. Huff read the statement to me. I am aware of it and I agree with the content of it."

Huff said he and Moore submitted

198 names to Stanley for consideration in the appointment of the committee. "Only two (on the final list) were names which had been submitted by either one of us," he said.

The Louisville attorney said he and Moore "submitted 195 unduplicated names to the president . . . for consideration. Dr. Stanley had received some 300 other names."

"The list submitted by the vice presidents consisted of the names of ministers and layperson from all participating states without regard to their views, but with regard to the evangelistic effort, which includes baptisms as shown by their church letters, their Sunday School, training union (Church Training), Woman's Missionary Union, and Cooperative Program support," Huff said.

He added: "The individuals recommended by the vice presidents were from both small churches and large churches and represented, we felt, the basis on which the SBC functions, namely, great churches on mission together. Some of the names nominated were not objected to by the vice presidents, but I feel the names originally submitted were far more representative of Southern Baptists than those actually nominated."

Huff said he believes the list is "not representative of Southern Baptist. I am not speaking of votes or views. Our list was made up of people from the great churches that support the Cooperative Program. To have only two people from that list is simply not representative of Southern Baptists."

Huff said a day-long meeting at Stanley's home was "very gracious. I enjoyed the hours we spent together. He was very courteous, very open. He certainly made no comments to any individual at all, and we left there not knowing who would be appointed."

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- May 25 Christian Peacemaking Sunday (CAC Emphasis)
- Associational Emphasis Sunday (HMB Emphasis)
- May 26-30 Royal Ambassador Camp Staff Week; Central Hills Retreat (BRO)
- May 31 Simultaneous Associational Officers Training (In each association)

## Home Mission Board accepts resignation with 'regrets'

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP) — The executive committee on the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board accepted "with regrets" the resignation of William G. Tanner as president effective June 15, and adopted a process for handling administrative decisions until a new president is elected.

Tanner, president of the HMB for almost 10 years, was elected May 6 as executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, effective July 1.

While the board is without a president, each of the board's vice

presidents will continue to operate according to the interim administrative process adopted by the board.

HMB Executive Vice President Bob Banks will "fulfill the functions and responsibilities of the president in his absence," as provided by his position description and board action.

Travis Wiginton, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Norman, Okla., and chairman of the 84-member board, told board members the agency's bylaws spell out the process for selection of a new president.

The bylaws state the officers of the

board shall appoint a seven-member search committee to recommend a new president. The officers will appoint the committee after the Southern Baptist Convention which meets in Atlanta, and after Tanner's resignation is effective.

During the 10 years of his presidency, the Home Mission Board has appointed 5,480 new missionaries, provided opportunities for mission service for more than 320,000 volunteers, and endorsed on behalf of the denomination 3,664 Baptist chaplains. Currently, there are 3,723 mis-

(Continued on page 13)



# ACTS

SATELLITE NETWORK, INC.

The following program changes will occur during the week of the SBC.

## Monday, June 9

- 6:00 p.m. "Country Crossroads" (60 min.)
- 7:00 p.m. SBC Convention Week Coverage (90 min.)
- 8:30 p.m. "At Home With the Bible" (30 min.)
- 9:00 p.m. Regular Programming Resumes
- 10:30 p.m. SBC Convention Week Coverage (90 min.)
- 12:00 a.m. "At Home With the Bible" (30 min.) (Tues.)
- 12:30 a.m. Resume Regular Programming
- 4:30 a.m. SBC Convention Week Coverage (90 min.)

## Tuesday, June 10

- 10:15 a.m. Join SBC Convention in Progress President's Address (45 min.)
- 11:00 a.m. Country Crossroads (60 min.)
- 12:00 noon Resume Regular Programming
- 6:00 p.m. "Great Churches" (60 min.)
- 7:00 p.m. SBC: Home Mission Board Report (90 min.)
- 8:30 p.m. "Word of Life" (30 min.)
- 9:00 p.m. Resume Regular Programming
- 10:30 p.m. SBC: Home Mission Board Report (90 min.)
- 12:00 a.m. "Word of Life" (30 min.) (Wed.)
- 12:30 a.m. Resume Regular Programming
- 4:30 a.m. SBC: Home Mission Board Report (90 min.)

## Wednesday, June 11

- 10:30 a.m. "At Home With the Bible" (30 min.)
- 11:00 a.m. SBC: Convention Sermon (30 min.)
- 11:30 a.m. Resume Regular Programming
- 6:00 p.m. "In Concert" (60 min.)
- 7:00 p.m. SBC: Foreign Mission Board Report (90 min.)
- 8:30 p.m. "Human Dimension" (30 min.)
- 9:00 p.m. Resume Regular Programming
- 10:30 p.m. SBC: Foreign Mission Board Report (90 min.)
- 12:00 a.m. "Human Dimension" (30 min.) (Thurs.)
- 12:30 p.m. Resume Regular Programming
- 4:30 p.m. SBC: Foreign Mission Board Report (90 min.)

## Thursday, June 12

- 10:30 a.m. "Life Today Special" (90 min.)
- 12:00 noon Resume Regular Programming

ALL TIMES CST

## Baptists aid victims of twin Texas twisters

SWEETWATER, Texas (BP) — Baptists rallied quickly to aid the victims of twin tornadoes that ripped a two-mile-long swathe of destruction through Sweetwater, Texas April 19.

The twisters destroyed or damaged more than 600 homes, leaving many residents homeless but thankful to be alive.

One person was killed, Earl Tatom, a member of Lamar Street Baptist Church, who lived in a government housing project where the storm did some of its worst damage.

Jerry Bob Taylor, manager of Circle Six Baptist Encampment in near-

by Stanton, rushed to the scene to serve as on-site coordinator for Texas Baptist disaster relief and to advise pastors and others of the resources available through the Texas Baptist disaster relief program.

Bill Walters, coordinator of the Texas Baptist Church Building and Support Section, coordinated the work of the church recovery task force.

First Baptist Church was designated as the childcare center where disaster victims left their children while cleaning up their homes or applying for assistance.

## SBC telecast set for 1986

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The 1986 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta will be televised for the second consecutive year with live, gavel-to-gavel coverage by BTN (Baptist Telecommunication Network).

Coverage will begin at 8:30 (EDT) Tuesday morning, June 10, with music by the choir from First Church, Atlanta. The first item of business will be the call to order at 9 a.m.

Coverage will conclude at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, June 12. All of the transmission will be unscrambled so any church or individual having a satellite receiving antenna can view the proceedings.

Anchors for the coverage will be Gomer Lesch, anchor of SBC NewScene and senior BTN consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, and Dick McCartney, editor of the Baptist Messenger, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

NewScene updates will be offered to viewers at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday. The five-minute updates will provide a capsule look at the events which have occurred most recently and provide insights into potentially significant events during the next sessions.

Joe Denney, manager of the telecommunications department at the Sunday School Board, urged all BTN subscribers, churches, associations, state conventions and SBC agencies, to open their facilities and encourage persons in the area to watch the annual convention.

Two programs were offered to help churches as they prepared to participate in the SBC, "SBC Preview" was aired May 14 at 11:15 a.m. (EDT) to provide information to persons planning to be messengers in Atlanta. This program was repeated at 3 p.m. May 20.

"Viewing the SBC" will be telecast May 28 at 11:15 a.m. as a help for persons planning to watch the annual convention in their churches. This also will be shown June 4 at 4:15 p.m.

The convention will be broadcast on the Spacenet I satellite, channel 21, at 120 degrees west. Satellite receiving systems still are available at no charge to churches interested in signing a five-year subscription agreement to BTN.

There are nearly 800 subscribers to BTN. BTN viewers last year added an estimated 50 percent to the number of persons who were able to see the Southern Baptist Convention.

Thursday, May 22, 1986

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 13

## HMB accepts resignation

(Continued from page 12)

sionaries serving under the board. These missionaries, volunteers, and chaplains personally have led 656,117 persons to a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

HMB executive committee members gave Tanner a standing ovation, and voted to present to him as "tangible recognition and gratitude" the car the agency is now providing for his use.

Although the resignation of the president and process for selecting a successor dominated the board's executive committee meeting, board members also elected a new staff member as director of records management services, approved a change in interest rates for church loans, and appointed 45 new mis-

sionaries for service in 18 states, Puerto Rico, and Canada.

Board members voted to reduce the rate of interest on church loans from 12.75 percent to 11.5 percent, plus two points on the first \$200,000 and one point on amounts above \$200,000, and offered an opportunity for churches with existing church loans to refinance their mortgages at the lower rates.

Elected director of records management services was Hubert O. Gibson, a computer expert and manager of information services for USA Enterprises in Conyers, Ga. Gibson is a native of Dallas and graduate of Dallas Baptist University.

Jim Newton is news editor of the Home Mission Board.

## New Orleans alumni will lunch in Atlanta

NEW ORLEANS — The annual "national luncheon" for alumni and friends of New Orleans Seminary will be held at 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, June 11, at the Omni International Hotel in Atlanta, Ga.

Seminary president Landrum P. Leavell II will speak at the luncheon, which is during the Southern Baptist Convention. Grady C. Cothen, alumni association president, will be luncheon moderator. Two persons will be honored as distinguished alumni.

Tickets are \$15 per person, \$12 if purchased by mail this month. For more information, contact the National Alumni Office, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La. 70126, or call 504-282-4455.

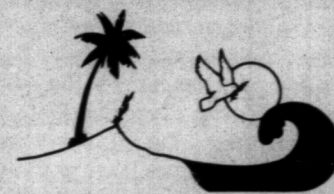
## Central Hills has openings

Dan West, manager of Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko, reports that there are openings for campers during the first two weeks of Royal Ambassador Camp. These are the weeks of June 2-6 and June 9-13. For details, contact West at Box 237, Kosciusko, Miss. 39090.

Worry about the future doesn't improve the future — it only ruins the present — "Country Parson"

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## Missionary News

George and Doris Berry, missionaries to Uganda, have arrived in the States (address: Laurel First Baptist Church, Box 2636, Laurel, Miss. 39440). They are natives of South Carolina.

Floy Smith, missionary associate to the Philippines, has arrived on the field to begin her first term of service (address: P. O. Box 7506, Airmail Exchange, Manila International Airport, Philippines 3120). A native of Mississippi, she was born in Piave and considers Hattiesburg her hometown.

Roland and Linda Hodge, missionaries to Ecuador since 1981, resigned from missionary service March 31. They lived in Santo Domingo, Ecuador, where he served as a religious education consultant, and she was a church and home worker. He is a native of Magee, Miss., and she is from Texas.

Charles and Patricia Corey, missionaries to Guatemala, have completed language study and arrived on their field of service (address: Apartado 322, Guatemala City, Guatemala). He was born in DeKalb,

Ill., and considers Holly Springs, Miss., and New Orleans, La., his hometowns. The former Patricia Gilbert, she was born in Meridian, Miss., and considers New Orleans her hometown.

Dennis and Sherrie Meilstrup, missionaries to Argentina, have arrived in Costa Rica for language study (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica). He was born in South Bend, Ind. The former Sherrie Walker of Mississippi, she was born in Meridian and considers Flora her hometown.

Stephen and Vidonia Smith, missionaries to Argentina, have arrived in Costa Rica for language study (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica). He was born in Santa Monica, Calif., and considers Hattiesburg, Miss., his hometown. The former Vidonia Puckett, she was born in Houston, Texas, and considers White Oak, Miss., her hometown.

Freeling and Betty Clower, missionaries to Sierra Leone, have arrived on the field (address: P. O. Box 1085, Freetown, Sierra Leone).



# "Bring a sack lunch," SBC-goers encouraged

By Marv Knox

ATLANTA (BP) — Good seats will be at a premium during the Atlanta session of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 10-12.

The worst problems in finding seats will be on Tuesday, the opening and busiest day of the convention. On that day, convention messengers will elect a president and perhaps both vice presidents, choose trustees for SBC agencies, elect a new Committee on Boards to nominate next year's slate of trustees, vote on a change in controversial Bylaw 16 and hear a report from the SBC Peace Committee.

Consequently, a record number of messengers is expected. Officials are prepared for more than 40,000 says Tim Hedquist, convention manager and vice president for business and finance at the SBC Executive Committee. That number will swell past 50,000, predicts Fred Wolfe, SBC Order of Business Committee chairman.

The numbers translate into inconvenience for messengers, Southern Baptists from churches across the country who meet annually to conduct convention business. On Tuesday and Wednesday, seating will be available for 45,000 messengers, and standing room will be provided for 20,000 more. Two hours will be needed simply to fill and clear the halls, although theoretically no messenger would have to wait that long.

But lines for food and restrooms may be a different story. On Monday, when related meetings will be held, and on Tuesday, a 94,000-square-foot exhibit hall will be converted into a standing-only snack bar. On Wednesday and Thursday, in-building eating options will be limited severely, Hedquist says. The same goes for restrooms, since the center is designed for exhibits and not wall-to-wall people.

Unfortunately, these might not be the only hassles awaiting messengers. Following are some special categories of people and information for and about them.

★ **The Travelers:** parking is available for only about 10,000 people, a fraction of the crowd expected. Messengers who stay beyond walking distance should exercise one of two



options — either ride MARTA trains or buses to the Omni Station or drive to the Atlanta/Fulton County Stadium, just south of downtown, and catch direct shuttles to the center. Stadium parking is \$1 or \$1.50. Shuttle, train, and bus fares are 60 cents.

★ **The homeless:** Although the SBC housing block is full, not all Atlanta hotel rooms are. Call the SBC Executive Committee at (615) 244-2355 for toll-free numbers of travel agents who can help.

★ **The needy:** Limited housing in homes of local Baptists is available for messengers who cannot afford to stay in hotels. For information, call (615) 244-2355.

★ **The halt:** A special brochure for mobile handicapped will be available at the information desk in the convention center. Access information for handicapped parking also will be available at the information desk.

★ **The strangers:** Only messengers and their infant children, program personalities and members of the press will be allowed in the center — including all meeting halls, exhibit areas and bookstores — all day Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Others who accompany them will not be admitted until Wednesday evening, at the earliest.

★ **The children:** Preschool children will be suffered unto volunteers from Atlanta churches, who will provide child care for \$5 per session for children from outside metropolitan Atlanta. Facilities for the program will be located one story above the main meeting hall.

Children who have completed grades one through six are eligible to participate in the SBC Missions Daycamp, operated by the SBC Brotherhood Commission. They can be registered beginning Monday, June 9, at the daycamp table in the convention center. Cost is \$7 per day or \$20 for three days, including Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

★ **The sick:** Everything from a helicopter to advanced communications systems will be on hand to provide messengers with emergency medical assistance. The first aid stations will be located adjacent to the childcare center, one level above the main meeting hall, and also on the same level as the main hall.

★ **The hungry:** Some snack bars will be located throughout the center, in addition to the large snack area which will be open on Monday and Tuesday. But messengers who bring their own meals are encouraged to carry them in sacks, not coolers, which would take up vital space.

★ **The lost:** This means people who can't find friends and family, not people who don't know Jesus. Every person who attends the meeting with one or more others should make plans concerning where to meet in the event of separation. Plans should be more specific than "by the escalator" (there are more than 60) and "in the lobby" (there are several). In the worst case, lost people should contact an usher and be escorted to the convention office.

★ **Sheer numbers:** up to 60,000 people, spread over 600,000 square feet of floor space, scattered on eight levels, staying for more than 60 hours — add up to inconvenience for everyone, Hedquist notes. He adds, however, the experience doesn't have to be bad.

"If people come with the same attitude as they had in Dallas last year (where 45,519 messengers registered), we'll make it," he explains. "The spirit of the people can make all the difference."

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

## capsules

### Wilmer C. Fields honored

GLORIETA, New Mexico — Members of the Baptist Public Relations Association (BPRA) gave special recognition to Wilmer C. Fields, Chairman of the Baptist World Alliance Communications Committee, during their annual meeting in Glorieta. Fields is a former editor of the Baptist Record and former pastor, First Church, Yazoo City.

The BPRA members also voted to rename their annual awards competition "The Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition." The action was in recognition of Fields' "years of service and contributions to denominational public relations."

The BPRA members also voted to rename their annual awards competition "The Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition." The action was in recognition of Fields' "years of service and contributions to denominational public relations."

Fields has announced his retirement in April 1987 as vice-president for public relations and director of Baptist Press for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

### 7-Eleven stores won't sell sex-oriented magazines

DALLAS, Tex. (EP) — Southland Corporation's 4,500 7-Eleven convenience stores will no longer sell Playboy, Penthouse, and Forum magazines, the company announced April 10.

The decision marks a change in a practice that Southland had continued despite boycotts, picketing and protests by Christian anti-pornography activists, including a demonstration last fall when thousands of people marched on the company's Dallas headquarters to demonstrate their opposition to the sale of sex-oriented magazines.

Southland spokesperson Alisa Martin said the protests were in no way responsible for Southland's decision.

Don Wildmon, whose National Federation for Decency had targeted 7-Eleven stores for boycott two years ago, disagreed.

### Sixty-year membership slide ends

LONDON — An analysis of membership of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland shows the highest membership increase of any year since 1925.

Figures for the year 1984, tallied for the annual assembly in April, show membership of the Union's 1,900 churches rose by almost 2,000 over the previous year.

Baptisms also show a massive increase of 1,900, for a total of 8,159. Baptist Times said that baptism figures have increased regularly in recent years but "this rise is exceptional." The highest increase in recent years was 852 in 1974.

## SCRAPBOOK

### What percent?

I heard a lady say one day  
That she had been an 80% Christian,  
And as I thought about that,  
God sent these words to me.

"What percent Christian are you, my friend?"  
"What percent are you?"

I gave my tithe,  
I talked of him as though he were my friend,  
I went to church, I sang the songs  
As though I understood.

"What percent Christian are you, my friend?"  
"What percent are you?"

I told my friends and those I knew  
That He was in control,  
And yet, I hid a part of me,  
A part I would not show.

"What percent Christian are you, my friend?"  
"What percent are you?"

If I had only let Him  
Have control of all my life,  
There is so much I could have missed,  
The tears, the sin, the strife.

So as you read this, think, dear friend,  
And humbly ask of Him,  
"What percent Christian am I, dear Lord?"  
"What percent am I?"

— "Poppa"

### You are invited to DEDICATION SERVICES

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June 1, 1986

9:30 a.m. — Move into Bible Study Facility

10:45 a.m. — Dedication Service

#### GUEST SPEAKERS

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• Dr. Earl Kelly, Executive Secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson

2:00 p.m. — Ribbon Cutting

7:00 p.m. — Dedication of the new Concert Steinway Grand Piano with

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# Senior Adult Corner

## Autrey: 'deepen your commitment'

DALLAS (BP) — Senior adults need to deepen their commitment to "the faith that overcomes," said C. E. Autrey, former professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, and one-time evangelism division director at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Autrey challenged Texas Baptist senior adults to share the gift of eternal life both through lifestyle and bold verbal witness during the Senior Adult Evangelism/Christian Life Conference at Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin April 28-29.

He related his experiences as a pioneer mission pastor in Utah to il-

lustrate God's power to overcome disability. He recalled that in four years and 10 months in the Mormon-dominated area, the young church grew from three members to 659 and started two additional missions.

"With all the circumstances working against us, with all the disabilities, God brought the victory," Autrey said.

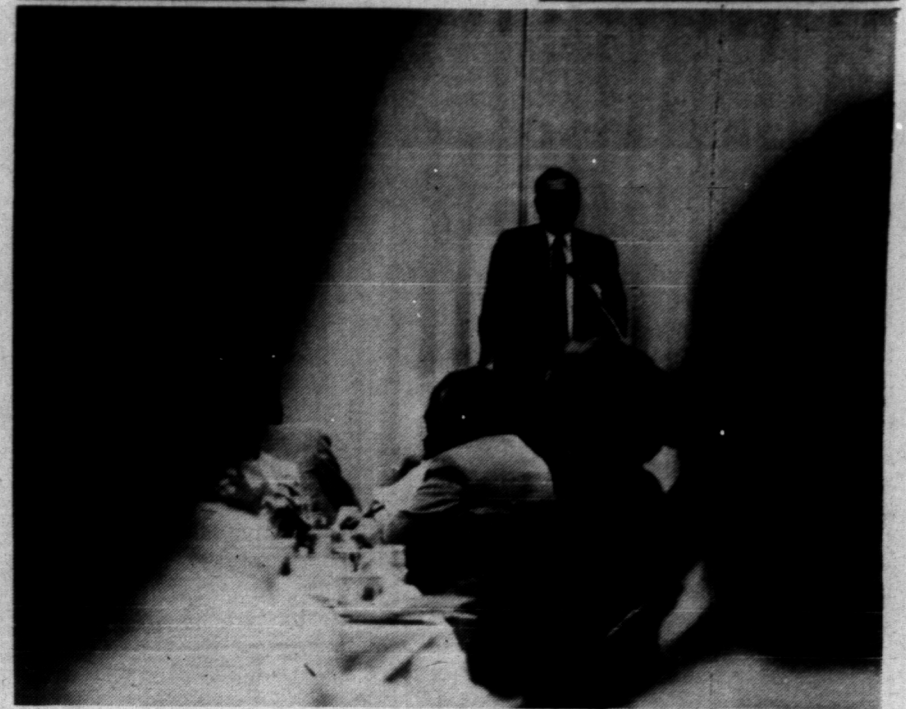
He noted the evidence of the Holy Spirit's coming is "your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams," but he discounted the notion that the dreams are recollections of past glories.

"You will dream that you are 35 years old again, you will get up and act like you're 35 years old, and you'll

get up and witness like you're 35 years old," said Autrey. When he offered a call to commitment to "speak forth the truth of God," senior adults lined the altar.

"There are enough people at the altar to turn this state upside-down," Autrey said.

In the opening service, Travis Berry, pastor of First Church, Plano, Texas, characterized witnessing as "something that gets better as life goes on." He said being a real witness means being "a voice saying what we know to be true . . . a sample of what you want other people to become" and a "laborer together with the Spirit of God."



### Gaventa addresses doctors

Bill Gaventa, director of medical services for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, speaks to the Mississippi Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship in Jackson. Gaventa, himself a medical doctor, reported that more than 300 medical and dental volunteers served on foreign fields last year. Opportunities continue to arise. "We never fill all the requests and we always have people volunteering that we can't find places for," said Gaventa, explaining that restricted time frames sometimes prevent qualified personnel from filling specific needs. He said an optical technician is needed now for the Dominican Republic to teach nationals how to use a lab that was given to them. Two pediatricians are needed in Nigeria and physicians are needed in the middle east. Two medical teams are being fielded by Mississippians — both to Honduras — in June and in August. Any physician, dentist, nurse, or student in these fields can receive information about affiliating with the Fellowship by contacting Paul Harrell, Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

## Senatobia: "We are not old . . ."

The senior citizens of First Church, Senatobia, have been to the passion play at Eureka Springs, Ark., to senior citizens' Chautauqua at Ridgecrest, N. C., and Gulfshore Assembly. They have also taken trips to Natchez and

Vicksburg.

"We are not old, we are the 'Active Group.' Yes, we're over the speed limit, but we are getting along very well. Our lives have been blessed with a young leader. The 'Active Group' has

covered a lot of miles, both in travel and the Lord's work. God has been so good to us 'over the speed limit' by keeping us active," says June A. Foley, secretary. John W. Flowers is pastor.

## West Ripley holds special day of appreciation for pastor

West Ripley Church, Ripley, had a surprise Pastor Appreciation Day March 16 for Billy W. Baker, who has been on the church field since Oct. 24, 1979. The church has experienced steady growth in membership, attendance, and physical facilities since that time.

The Planning Committee included Elton Wilbanks, chairman, Milton Wilbanks, Carl Johnson, Gerald Taylor, Houston Clemmer, Eula Mae Tigner, Peggy O'Leary, and Marie Bullock. Harry Phillips, associational missionary, delivered the message.



Baker

Peggy and Shawn Davis sang two special selections. A church quartet (Jackie and Audra Glidewell, Carl Johnson, and Houston Clemmer), sang, accompanied at the piano by Joyce Clemmer.

Milton Wilbanks reviewed church achievements under leadership of Baker, Gerald Taylor and Houston Clemmer presented a plaque to the pastor. Benny Goolsby gave a personal word of appreciation. Elton Wilbanks presented a \$362 money tree and a love seat-couch-recliner set to Baker as a gift from the church. Leroy George pronounced the benediction and gave thanks for the meal to be served in the new Family Life Center. The program was video taped.

## Commission initiates search for executive director-elect

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Citing "personal health concerns," Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission Executive Director Foy Valentine has requested the process for finding his successor be set in motion.

In a letter to the commission's chairman, Charles R. Wade, Valentine asked that a search committee be activated to nominate an executive director-elect "as soon as in the providence of God the right person can be found."

While no date was set for the search committee's report, Valentine noted that when the commission meets in September he will be only 22 months from the age 65 retirement date designated in the agency's employment policies.

In response to Valentine's request, which was discussed at the regular meeting of the CLC executive commit-

tee on April 28, Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas, has appointed six other commission members to be on a search committee with him.

In his letter requesting the appointment of a search committee, Valentine explained that "the urgency of the matter is highlighted by some personal health concerns which have recently come into focus."

Valentine has headed the Christian Life Commission since 1960. He came to the commission from the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Wade asked that suggestions to the search committee be communicated in writing and sent to Charles R. Wade, chairman, CLC Search Committee, c/o First Baptist Church, 300 South Center Street, Arlington, Tex. 76010.

## Churches adopt 1988 expanded annuity plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan of 1988 since those reported in the April 17 issue of the Baptist Record:

Springfield (Adams), Pilgrim's Rest (Attala), Kilmichael (Carroll-Montgomery), Liberty (Carroll-Montgomery), Weir (Choctaw),

Mt. Vernon (Holmes-Leflore), FBC, Ocean Springs (Jackson), Cartersville (Lebanon), FBC Brooklyn (Lebanon), University (Lebanon),

Robinson (Mississippi), FBC Starkville (Oktibbeha), Goodwater (Simpson), and Salem (Walthall).

## Associations adopt expanded annuity plan

The following associations have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since March 6, 1986:

Jackson  
Mississippi  
Monroe  
Scott

## James Dobson film series to be shown at Flora

The new six-part film series, "Turn Your Heart Toward Home," recently introduced by James and Shirley Dobson, will be shown at Flora Church, beginning on May 25 at 6:55 p.m. The series will be shown for six consecutive Sunday evenings, at the same time each week, concluding on June 29.

This series includes the following films: (1) A Father Looks Back, (2) Power in Parenting: The Young Child, (3) Power in Parenting: The Adolescent, (4) The Family Under Fire, (5) Overcoming a Painful Childhood, and (6) The Heritage.

J. Steve Jackson, pastor at Flora Church, says that guests are welcomed and members, especially parents, are encouraged to attend the series.

## The Crowder suit

(Continued from page 2)

ly the framers of the constitution did not have such a condition in mind. They must have meant that it is incumbent on the committee on committees to make such nominations whether or not anyone else does.

But there had been a vote, and the vote had been set aside. Attempts to effect a change back to the condition that would have been established by the vote were denied by the chair.

We don't have a ruling leader who would be able to say, "This is the way it is going to be." The members of the convention make those decisions, but the convention was over. The situation either had to be accepted as it was, or other steps had to be considered.

Again, there could never have been any hope of winning the suit; but the reason for losing was not a valid one. It is not an effort to establish a religion or prevent the free exercise of one when one challenges a ruling on the constitution of his religious body. Otherwise, if there is no one to determine what the solution will be, then where does one turn?

Nevertheless, it would appear that the Crowder forces had no hope of ac-

complishing anything but calling attention to the need for change. A change is in the mill through a proposed constitutional change that will be submitted by the SBC Executive Committee.

That should be sufficient.

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# Baptist Record

- Bible Book: *Bible study leads to repentance*
- Uniform: *The fruit of the Holy Spirit*
- Life and Work: *With the unsaved*

## Bible study leads to repentance

By Billy McKay

**Introduction.** John the Baptist preached repentance (cf. Matt. 3:1-12). The apostle Paul in Acts 19:4 stated that the message of repentance was "that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When Abraham believed God in Genesis 15:6 he was made righteous in God's sight. He believed God's prophetic promise concerning the "seed" (cf. Gen. 3:15). Paul states clearly in Gal. 3:16 that the "seed" was Christ. There has only been one way of salvation for man and that is Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament man believed in the Christ who was to come (cf. Gen. 3:15). In the New Testament we believe in the Christ who has come and finished the work of salvation (cf. John 19:30).

We must remember that Nehemiah has a two-fold emphasis: the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem

(cf. Neh. 1-6) and the rebuilding of the people (cf. Neh. 7-13). Religious rituals in the Bible are never divorced from spiritual realities in the lives of God's people. In this lesson on Bible study that leads to repentance, we see a repentance which brought Israel probably to their highest moral and spiritual state from the Babylonian captivity to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Note the things we learn concerning repentance:

**I. We see the foundation of repentance (8:1, 8-12).** Illustration: On Feb. 3, 1986, President Reagan signed a proclamation which proclaimed that 1983 be "the year of the Bible." He said the following about the Bible: "Inside its pages lie all the answers to all the problems that man has ever known." In every genuine revival the word of God has had a large place. It was true in the revivals under Josiah and Hezekiah. The recovery of the Word

brought about the Reformation in the 16th century. Since saving faith comes by hearing the word of God (cf. Rom. 10:17), there is no repentance and revival apart from the word of God (cf. Rom. 10:17). The Hebrew word for repentance (nacham) and the Greek word for repentance (metanoia) means "a change of mind" or "to have another mind." Man's thoughts are that salvation is in works or that man is hopelessly lost. The good news of the Bible is that salvation is apart from works and all men can have hope due to the grace of God (cf. Rom. 4:5; Eph. 2:8-9). The word of God says all men are hopelessly lost apart from God's grace (cf. Eph. 2:12). Why is Bible study the foundation of repentance? Some reasons are as follows: **A. It reveals to us what God expects from us (8:1).** Note the term "law of Moses which the Lord had commanded to Israel." **B. It reveals to us how**

we have broken God's law (8:8-9). **Illustration:** Mark Twain once said, "it is not what I don't understand about the Bible that bothers me but what I do understand." In 8:8 we learn that God's word was clearly explained. The three phrases "read . . . distinctly," "gave the sense," and "caused them to understand" refers to a clear teaching of the Bible. The clearer we make the Bible the more powerful the effect. **C. It reveals to us the source of strength (8:8-10).** The word of God brought deep sorrow to Israel (8:9-11) but it was not to leave them in this sorrow. It ultimately was to lead to strength. Paul said, "the letter (i.e., the law of God) killeth, but the spirit giveth life" (cf. 2 Cor. 3:6b). A great verse is 8:10 which says that "the joy of the Lord is our strength." **Illustration:** We are sorrowed when the surgeon tells us we need surgery but submission to the knife will bring healing and strength.

**II. We see the focus of repentance (Neh. 9).** The focus of repentance keys in on the following: **A. It focuses on**

our spiritual bankruptcy (9:1). **B. It focuses on our belief (9:3a).** **C. It focuses on our behavior (9:3b).** Someone said, "It is not how high you jump when you shout but how straight you walk when you hit the ground" that's important.

**III. We see the fruit of repentance (9:38-39).** The people made a covenant to bring forth the fruit of repentance (9:38, 10:29). Note who did this (10:1, 9, 14, 28). John the Baptist urged people to bring forth fruit as a result of repentance (cf. Matt. 3:8). The fruit of repentance is manifested in three areas: **A. In our homes (9:30).** Marriages to pagans would cease (cf. 2 Cor. 6:14). **B. In our businesses (9:31).** The sabbath would not be just another day for business. **C. In our churches (9:32-39).** Note the four different kinds of stewardship they would observe (10:32, 34, 35-36, 37-39).

**Conclusion.** Since Bible study leads to this kind of repentance, let us "preach the word" (cf. 2 Tim. 4:2).

McKay is pastor, 1st, Belzoni.

## The fruit of the Holy Spirit

By Gus Merritt

Galatians 5:13 to 6:10

The Galatian epistle was written by the Apostle Paul to refute the teachings of the Judaizers. The Judaizers taught that in order for a person to be saved, he had to be circumcised and keep the law. This teaching undermined salvation by grace through faith. The teaching involved works as a means of salvation. Therefore, Paul emphasized freedom from the law or legalism. The Christian is governed by the law of love or the royal law. The law of love does away with cold legalism but also keeps the believer from license (5:13-14). Love controls our conduct and keeps us from behaving like wild animals in tearing one another apart (5:15). The greatest evidence of the

lack of control by the Holy Spirit is the open hostility of members of the church against one another.

**The internal warfare of the believer (5:16-26).** The warfare between the flesh and the Spirit is very real and every believer can testify to its reality. The victory in this warfare is determined by the believer. If the believer gives in to the flesh, the flesh will prevail. If the believer submits to the Holy Spirit's control, the Spirit will subdue the flesh (5:16). When the Christian refuses to allow the Holy Spirit to control his life, the flesh will prevail. Keep in mind the term "lust of the flesh" means living apart from the control of the Holy Spirit. To "walk in the Spirit" is to be controlled by the Spirit (5:16).

In dealing with the results of the

flesh controlled life, Paul gives the "works" of the flesh. The word "works" is plural, indicating a fragmented life. The word "fruit" in verse 22 is singular indicating unity. Notice Paul gives four groups of the works of the flesh. (1) Sensual sins. Sexual sins of all kinds dominate heathenism. These sins prevail today in the unbelieving community. (2) Idolatry or worship of idols. Sorcery and witchcraft were common practices. We are seeing more and more of this today. The word translated witchcraft and sorcery is the word from which we get our word pharmacy. The use of drugs was prevalent in the practice of witchcraft. (3) Sins of the spirit. These sins are not as easily seen as the sins of the flesh. These are sins of the heart and control the at-

titude. (4) Drunkenness, the use of alcoholic beverages as practiced in the worship of Bacchus, the god of strong drink. This is the most abused drug of our day. Most of the time, alcohol is not considered a drug by those who use it. It is a drug. Drunkenness is condemned throughout the Bible, yet in our society we excuse it as being "sociable." Those who practice these works of the flesh as a habit are not Christians (5:21).

**The fruit of the Spirit (5:22-23).** The fruit of the Spirit as listed in 5:22-23 is the full orb and many faceted character of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we are controlled by the Holy Spirit, he produces the character of Jesus in us. This character is then demonstrated outwardly and the believer lives and acts as Jesus lived and acted. Others will be treated as Jesus would treat them when the fruit of the Spirit is produced. In his

discourse on the vine and branches, Jesus taught that the branches would "bear much fruit." In the context of John 15, Jesus mentioned love several times (vs. 9, 10, 12, 13, 17). In the fruit of the Spirit, love is first because all the other attributes proceed from it.

**The spiritual law of harvest (6:7-10).** Paul warns us that God is not mocked. The word translated mocked means "to turn up the nose." You cannot turn up your nose at God and get away with it! Consider these truths concerning the spiritual harvest: (1) When you sow, you reap in kind. (2) When you sow, you reap more than you have sown. (3) When you sow, you reap later than you have sown. It is necessary for you to sow the right kind of seed if you are to receive the right kind of harvest (6:10).

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## With the unsaved

By Peter McLeod

1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Leonard Griffith tells of an English nursing student who was preparing to go to the mission field. Her life was so different from her co-workers she was subjected to sarcastic remarks and questioning. One day, however, a young intern took her for coffee and asked if she really believed that Christ was the answer to the world's problems and that he could make a difference in a person's life. When she answered that she did, he looked her in the eye and said, "Then you cannot live as we live, you cannot behave as we behave. You have to be different!"

In essence, Paul was saying to the believers in Thessalonica, "Your belief has made a difference — it has affected your behavior — and it shows!" Rarely do we find a passage that rings with so much joy and affirmation as we do in this week's study. It's alive with a sense of what God's people can accomplish when their behavior agrees with their faith. Although there were problems in the church, Paul understood one basic

principle of life — people need and respond to praise. He knew that a person can often handle criticism if he has first been given praise for what he's done right.

**Praise for their faith (v. 2)**

Lloyd Ogilvie tells of a church member who was describing a mutual Christian friend. "She was a gift! That's the only way I can put it. She was a gift from God to me. She didn't bring gifts; she incarnated the one thing I needed: love and understanding."

Paul recognized that the believers in Thessalonica had become God's gift to the Macedonian world. Their witness had reached beyond their local borders and encompassed all of Macedonia and Achaia. Their "gift" was salvation.

Most of us have been touched by "gift" people. The question is, how often do we pray for them and then tell them what they man to us? Paul wanted the Christians in Thessalonica to know that he understood what they were doing and he told them so.

**Praise for their behavior (vs. 3-7)**

Can people really change? Is it possible for human nature to be so radically affected by the power of God's spirit that a person can become an "imitator of Christ?" Paul would give a resounding "Yes!" to that question and the Thessalonians were living proof of it.

He was also conscious of the fact that their faith had not grown out of a vacuum. He had served as their role model and, as a result, they had become models for "all believers in Macedonia and Achaia" (v. 7). But he was also careful to give credit where it belonged — to the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 3). His confidence in the believers was rooted in his confidence in Christ. He knew it was the power of the Holy Spirit working in their lives which made any and all change possible. Indeed, even their power to believe was the work of the Lord.

Psychologists tell us that we will live up to the lowest level of someone else's expectations. In the '70s a group of minority children in California were tested and declared to be "gifted." Throughout the school year their teachers worked to draw out the very best and the response was phenomenal. It was only at the end of

the year that all were told that the children were not gifted at all. They were average children who produced above-average results. Why? Because their teachers treated them — and they viewed themselves — as people capable of producing extraordinary work.

People want to become the best we affirm them to be. Paul really believed and communicated that the shortest route to personality and behavior change was a direct line to Christ Jesus. His affirmation of the believers in Thessalonica must have provided an incredible incentive for continuing to live in the light of Christ's revealed love!

**Praise for their witness (vs. 8-10)**

Paul commends the believers for having so beautifully portrayed Christ in their lives that they made a positive difference. A tired, depressed businessman sat down at a busy lunch counter. When the harassed waitress asked, "What da' ya' want?" he replied, "Lady, I want a slice of life!" Throwing down the menu, she responded, "Buddy, that's one thing I ain't got to give!"

A slice of life! Life is the one thing we have to give — not just a slice, but

all of life — God's life. The commission to all believers has not changed, "Go . . . and tell the people all about the new life" (Acts 5:20).

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